THE NO.1 INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL MAGAZINE

WORLD SOCCER®

NATIONS CUP SPECIAL

FEBRUARY 2000 £2.50

DENMARK DKR 49.75 GREECE DRA 1200.00
HOLLAND DFL 13.50 ITALY L 6500.00
MALTA LM 1.85 SPAIN PTAS 850.00 USA $ 5.45

KING KANU

Africa's star man gets ready for glory

EURO 2000

Countdown to the summer showdown

RIVALDO

Exclusive: world number one on life at the top

TEAM BY TEAM...YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP

NEW ...MILLENNIUM
...YEAR'S RESOLUTION
NEW ...STYLE, METHOD
NEW ...COACH!

Forsport have got an incredible range of coaching videos, books and training equipment that will help bring your sessions alive! A NEW approach for the challenges of the NEW millennium.

ATTACKING THE FLAT BACK FOUR
56 Exercises to Counter Modern Zone Defences
This video addresses the need for new and varying attacking skills and schemes to overcome increasingly effective modern zone defences.
R0121 - £19.99

110 EXERCISES
For Conditioning, Agility and Ball Control
This video offers a progression of drills and exercises designed to develop a 'feel' for soccer movements, fluidity, and ball skills while also building soccer specific conditioning levels.
R0757 - £19.99

MATCH TACTICS
Making Effective Adjustments During The Game
This excellent new video is a departure from the usual examination of singular static systems of play. It stresses the importance of adaptation in both individual play and team tactics during the match.
R0906 - £19.99

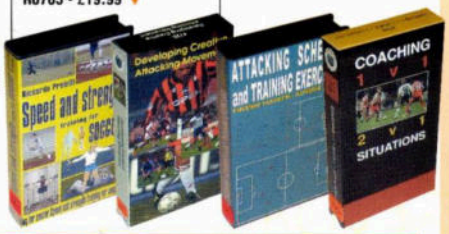
TRAINING SOCCER MOVEMENT
Developing Confidence On and Off the Ball
On this video you will find games and exercises designed to not only teach basic skills, but to allow each individual to develop movement capabilities, those elements which make up unique playing personalities and styles.
R0758 - £19.99

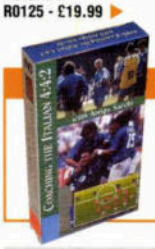
SPEED & STRENGTH TRAINING
This video has been specifically designed to assist soccer coaches with their strength programmes and for strengthening the specific muscles most commonly used by players.
R0767 - £19.99

ATTACKING SCHEMES AND TRAINING EXERCISES
This video is divided into three sections: Attacking Patterns, Circuit Training and Interval Conditioning Training.
R0765 - £19.99

COACHING 1v1 AND 2v1 SITUATIONS
The situations of one against one and two against one are analysed in this unique coaching program.
R0763 - £19.99

DEVELOPING CREATIVE ATTACKING MOVEMENT
This video follows the steps the Italians use to develop creative movement.
R0125 - £19.99





ONE OF OUR MOST POPULAR VIDEOS...

COACHING THE 4 : 4 : 2
With Arrigo Sacchi
See the small sided games, functional training, drills and combination plays, the Italian team used to reach the 1994 World Cup Final and to develop the most attractive offensive soccer and effective defence at the 1996 European Championships. **R0105 - £19.99**

NEW GERMAN COACHING VIDEOS

SOCCEROBICS
All the exercises on this new tape for co-ordination and agility training include the use of a ball.
R0900 - £19.99

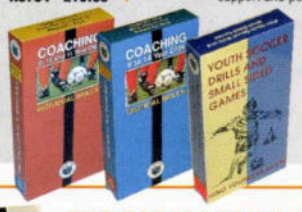
PENDULUM TRAINING FOR SOCCER
Hundreds of excellent exercises to develop your players skills, heading and touch on the ball with the use of the Pendulum Trainer.
R0901 - £19.99

NEW YOUTH COACHING VIDEOS

INDIVIDUAL SKILLS
Coaching 9, 10 & 11 Year Olds
This tape suggests a number of unique exercises designed not only for improvement of soccer technique, but also for the development of imagination and creativeness, all suitably adapted to the modern game.
R0753 - £19.99

TACTICAL SKILLS
Coaching 9 to 14 Year Olds
This video uses the individual skills and techniques learned from other videos in this series and applies them to real and pertinent game situations.
R0754 - £19.99

YOUTH SOCCER DRILLS & SMALL SIDED GAMES
This video is a vast resource of drills and small sided games covering skills, movement, support and possession.
R0764 £19.99



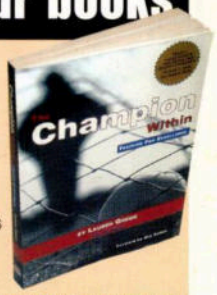
CREDIT CARD ORDERS WELCOME

VISA MasterCard SWITCH

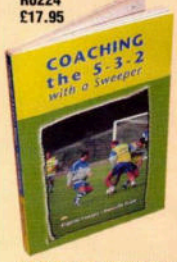
CALL OUR HOTLINE 0181 658 2007

THE TOP-COACH PAD
THE PERFECT DUG-OUT COMPANION
A leatherette folder complete with magnetic pitch and players for re-creation of set plays. It has an integral notepad with pre-printed pitch layouts for notes, good or bad! **R6582 - £39.99**
The Top Coach pad is also available separately in 2 sizes. **A5 R6588 - £3.49** A6 **R6584 - £2.99**

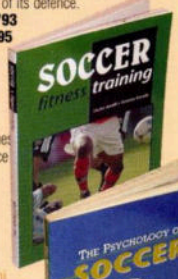
Take a leaf from one of our books



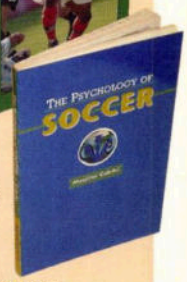
THE CHAMPION WITHIN
by Lauren Gregg
This unique coaching book, written by USA Women's World Cup Team Assistant Coach Lauren Gregg, draws on more than a decade of experience developing elite soccer players to define and explain the process of becoming a champion
R0224
£17.95



COACHING THE 5-3-2 WITH A SWEEPER
by Eugenio Fascetti and Romedio Scaia
This book focuses on teaching and implementing the 5-3-2 pattern of play which uses the sweeper as a fundamental part of its defence.
R0793
£9.95

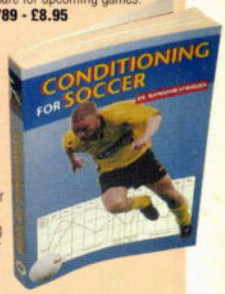


SOCCER FITNESS TRAINING
by Arcelli and Ferretti
A technical manual for soccer fitness training, particularly the endurance component specific to soccer's conditioning requirements
R0291 - £8.95



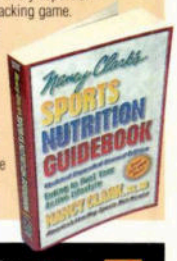
PSYCHOLOGY OF SOCCER
by Massimo Cabrini
This interesting book examines the emotional, physical and learning development of 6-11 year old players, teenage players and college players as well as the motivational factors involved with coaching these different age groups and the inter-action between the coach and players.
R0262
£8.95

THE SOCCER SCOUTING GUIDE
by Joe Bertuzzi
The ultimate book in soccer preparation this very useful and practical book shows you how to assess your future opponents and prepare for upcoming games.
R0789 - £8.95



CONDITIONING FOR SOCCER
A complete guide to developing every aspect of conditioning for soccer players
Soccer strength training, speed training for soccer players, soccer specific endurance training, pre-season conditioning, goalkeeping training, fitness testing for soccer players, injury prevention.
R0185
£14.99

ATTACKING SCHEMES & TRAINING EXERCISES
by Fascetti and Scaia
This book is packed with creative exercises and combinations to improve every aspect of your attacking game.
R0787
£9.95



SPORTS NUTRITION GUIDEBOOK
by Nancy Clark
Eat to fuel an active lifestyle. Get the book more than 200,000 readers have turned to for sports nutrition advice!
£12.95

TO PLACE YOUR ORDER CALL
FORSPORT 0181-658 2007
PROFESSIONAL COACHING EQUIPMENT

Official suppliers of training & coaching equipment to The Football League | Official sponsors for training & coaching equipment to the London Football Association | Official coaching equipment sponsor for Wimbledon FC Football in the Community | Official sponsors of the Charlton Athletic FC Soccer Academy | Official sponsors for training & coaching equipment to the Essex Football Association | Exclusive importers and distributors of Valsport products to the UK

PRICES CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS. E&OE

PROBABLY THE BEST FOOTBALL EQUIPMENT SPECIALIST AROUND, CALL FOR A FREE CATALOGUE

FEBRUARY 2000
VOL.40 NO.5

Cover shot: Nwankwo Kanu (Nigeria)

Editor Gavin Hamilton
Art Editor Gary Payne
Production Editor Peter Neish
Picture Editor Duncan Bond
Editorial Secretary June Hiscock
Pictures Empics, Allsport, Action Images

Thanks this issue to:
David Prole, Mike Hughes, David Rallis, Daniel Fein

Editorial
King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LS
Tel: 00 44 (0)171-261 5737
Fax: 00 44 (0)171-261 7474
E-mail: world_soccer@ipc.co.uk

Advertising Keamus Setna
Marketing Terry McManus
Production Manager Tom Jennings
Managing Director Andy McDuff
Publisher Sean Singleton

Display Advertising 0171-261 5499
Classified Advertising 0171-261 2823
Back Issues 0181-503 0588

International licensing enquiries
00 44 (0)171-261 7715/7082
E-mail: Siriliya_Nawalkar@ipc.co.uk

ipcmagazines
'A commitment to excellence'
Distributed by Marketforce
ABC Member of the Audit Bureau of Circulations

SUBSCRIPTION HOTLINE
01622 778778
SUBSCRIPTION RATES/ INFORMATION
Annual subscription is for 12 months (13 issues) UK: £32.50. Airmail Europe (inc. VAT): £33 (airmail). Airmail Zone A (Middle East & Africa): £35. Airmail Zone B (Americas): £40. Airmail Zone C (Australia, Far East and Rest of World): £45. Surface Worldwide: £28. Price includes contribution to postage.
Send orders to PO Box 272, Perrymount Road, Haywards Heath, West Sussex RH16 3DH
General enquiries & overseas orders: 00 44 (0)1444-445555.

WORLD SOCCER is a member of ESM
EUROPEAN SPORTS MAGAZINES
A Bola (Portugal), don balon (Spain), Foot (Belgium), Kicker (Germany), Gazzetta dello Sport (Italy), France Football (France), Voetbal International (Holland), WORLD SOCCER (UK)

Contents

February 2000

THE 22nd African Cup of Nations dominates our coverage this month. With the CONCACAF Gold Cup, Euro 2000, the Olympics and the Asian Cup to follow, the Nations Cup is the first major tournament of what promises to be an eventful Year 2000. The international calendar may be becoming more crowded by the year, but with footballers of the calibre of Nwankwo Kanu (interviewed on page 17) and Sammy Kuffour (page 18) on show, we can't complain. The players may argue that it is the clubs who pay their wages, but they gain much of their status and earning power from playing for their country.

Nothing much happens in African football without Mark Gleeson knowing about it, and as our chief African correspondent, he was the obvious person to prepare the complete Nations Cup preview. Read Mark's reports on all the contenders, starting on page 16.

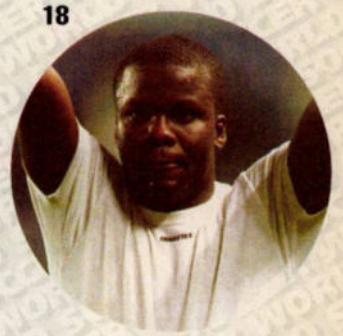
Also this month, we begin the countdown to Euro 2000. Over the coming months, we'll be talking to the men who matter from all 16 competing nations, as well as publishing guides to all the teams in separate booklets. **Gavin Hamilton, Editor** (gavin_hamilton@ipc.co.uk)

12

12 Rivaldo
Exclusive interview with *World Soccer*'s Player of the Year

16 COVER STORY
African Nations Cup
The complete guide to the 22nd Cup of Nations

18



REGULARS

Keir Radnedge 4
Libero 6
World Service 35
Crossword 76
Brian Glanville 80

WORLD NEWS

Italy 51
Spain 54
Germany 56
France 57
UK 58
Western Europe 60
Central & Eastern Europe 66
South America 68
North & Central America 71
Africa 72
Asia 74
Oceania 76

28 Euro 2000 countdown
Marc Wilmots, Milenko Acimovic, Dejan Stankovic

32 Rosenborg
Club focus on the 14-times Norwegian champions

32

Pro-files

53 Hernan Crespo
55 Diego Tristan
57 Marcelo Gallardo
59 Titi Camara
61 Richard Knopper
63 Mattias Asper
67 Pavel Horvath
69 Ulises De La Cruz
75 Hwang Sun-hong

61

Keir Radnedge

COMMENTARY

Sorry, Sepp – it's time to go hi-tech

'When the world is watching and millions are at stake, it's not enough to depend on human frailty'

He wuz robbed...Raul had a perfectly good goal ruled out against Al Nassr

THERE WAS a wonderful irony on the opening day of the World Club Championship in Brazil: two demonstrations of why FIFA needs to reach some sort of compromise over high-tech assistance.

FIFA president Sepp Blatter always maintains that the game "must be the same for top professionals, for part-timers, for amateurs, for boys and girls". That has been his justification for holding technological aids at more than arm's length. But both opening day matches demonstrated why a more refined approach is necessary for the 21st century.

Example No 1 came in Real Madrid's 3-1 win over Al Nassr, when Raul had a perfectly good goal disallowed because of an assistant's offside flag. TV replays showed, clearly, that Raul was onside when the through ball was played.

I don't blame the assistant. Raul is wonderfully quick and it is physically impossible to watch two separate pieces of action simultaneously, i.e. the pass being made and the forward accelerating. But when the world is watching and millions are at stake, it's not enough to depend on human frailty.

Example No 2 was far, far worse. It was the now-notorious moment early in the second half of Corinthians' 2-0 win over Raja Casablanca, when Fabio Luciano's shot came down from the underside of the bar, landed back in play, and was cleared...yet Italian referee Stefano Braschi deemed it to have crossed the line.

I do not question Braschi's integrity or his confident belief, from the angle at which he stood, that the ball did cross the line, Hurst-in-1966-style. But a far better angled TV camera showed the simple truth. As it was, giving that goal punctured the match balloon – Raja, who had played above themselves, lost their nerve and Corinthians eased off.

I can understand Blatter saying that video verdicts on offside judgments may complicate the action too much. But the goal-line judgment is simple. The technology is available, though highly expensive. And when TV is paying millions of pounds, dollars and Swiss francs, surely the credibility of the show demands the outlay.

Saviola happy to wait

THE TOP footballer in South America sent his apologies but he was not particularly distressed, apparently, at not making it to the World Club Championship.

Javier Saviola is the 18-year-old wonderboy from Argentinian champions River Plate, who has just been nominated South America's Footballer of the Year. He is being hyped as a fledgling mixture of the best of both Diego Maradona and Pele. All the top agents and leading clubs from Spain, Italy and France have left their calling cards in Buenos Aires, but Saviola remains remarkably unimpressed.

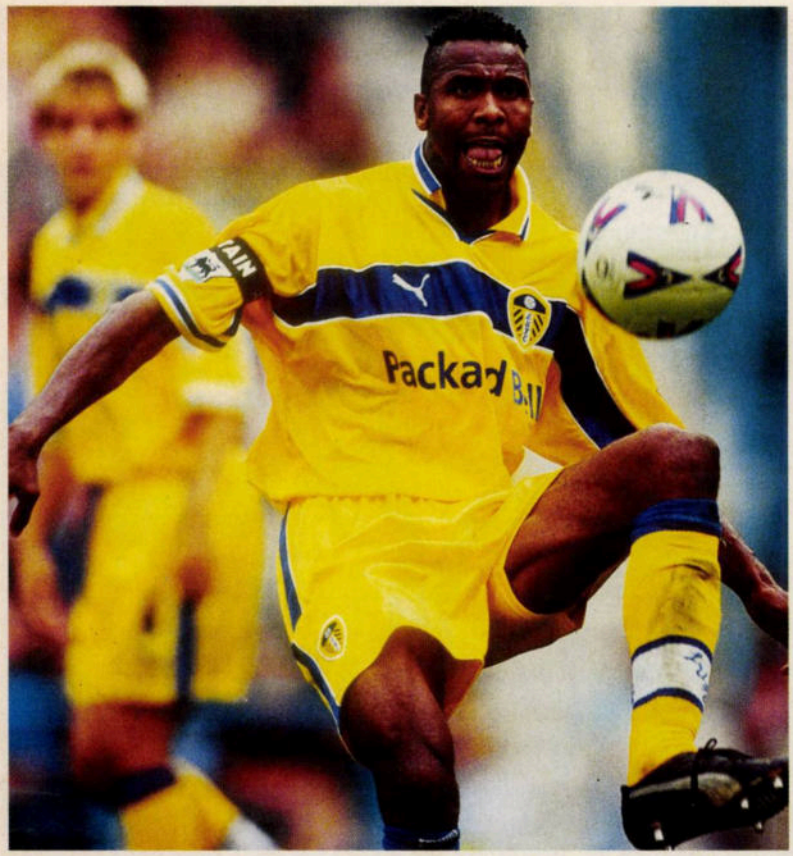
He says: "One day I may want to play in the biggest tournaments and for one of the biggest European clubs. But I'm still a teenager. Argentina is my home and I've heard too many bad stories about what happens to young players who go abroad. They are not looked after properly, get distracted and waste their talent."

As for the inaugural club championship, he says: "I can't imagine anything bigger than winning Argentina's championship, as River Plate have just done. This year we will play in the Copa Libertadores and then we may go on to bigger things. But I am not greedy. I am happy to take it all one step at a time."

Saviola finished top scorer in the recently-concluded Argentinian opening championship, is an Under-23 international and now awaits his senior call from national coach Marcelo Bielsa in the World Cup qualifying campaign.

He also appears to have his feet planted well and truly on the ground. Still, that's what we all thought about the teenage Maradona.

Home boy...Javier Saviola



Confusion...Lucas Radebe wants the African Nations Cup to move into line with Europe

Club versus country, continued

OPTIMISTIC talk about peace in the new millennium has not extended to football's club versus country struggle. The African Cup of Nations was still almost a month away when verbal warfare erupted between African associations and European clubs.

This would not have been as tawdry if the storms had centred on player availability for matches. But Nigeria, who co-host the event with Ghana, grew rancorous because one of their players was due to be a day late...for training.

Nwankwo Kanu, Africa's Footballer of the Year, is important not only to Nigeria but to his club, Arsenal. They pay his wages and wanted him to earn them in their fourth-round FA Cup tie against Leicester. Kanu was being kept at peak fitness by Arsenal, so Nigeria hardly needed worry on that score.

What I find irritating in these wrangles is the whingeing from people who know better. Like, for example, Arsene Wenger, Arsenal's manager, who has an internationalist approach to the game.

He knows that the African Nations Cup takes place in January and February every two years and that any African player worth his salt must be there. As I have pointed out before, if you sign a player from another continent you must be prepared to accept the availability problems this brings.

Even the players do not seem always to understand what's going on. South Africa and Leeds defender Lucas Radebe was quoted as saying that the African Nations Cup should be played out of season, in line with the European Championship finals. Clearly, he opened his mouth without engaging his brain.

As a star of the Nations Cup, Radebe presumably knows that the event takes place every two years. It is held in January-February because that, generally, is the African close season. If you staged it in the European close season, yes, it would coincide with the European Championship...but then, it would also clash every two years with the World Cup Finals.

The Nations Cup is fine where it is. If Radebe does not want the prestige and perks that go with representing his country, the solution is in his own hands.

Nice one, Kvarme

NOT ALL modern footballers are a greedy bunch whose first thought is for the size of their wage packets.

Norwegian Bjorn Tore Kvarme, the former Liverpool defender now playing in France with Saint-Etienne, had to leave his team-mates at short notice and return home after his wife gave birth prematurely.

On his return, Kvarme's first move was to ask the club not to pay him for the three weeks he had been tending to his family. Wife and baby are fine.

Anderton on the outside

Money for nothing...Darren Anderton

TOTTENHAM'S Darren Anderton has upset White Hart Lane fans because he wants a big pay rise built into his next contract. Yet he has not played for four months because of injury and has appeared in fewer than half of his club's League matches over the past two years.

If he had an eye on Europe's mid-season transfer window, then he was out of luck. Even the buy-anything-that-moves Italians did not want him, although the transfer market there has been buzzing.

Inter were busiest, of course – buying Dutchman Clarence Seedorf, Colombian defender Ivan Cordoba and Romanian striker Adrian Mutu.

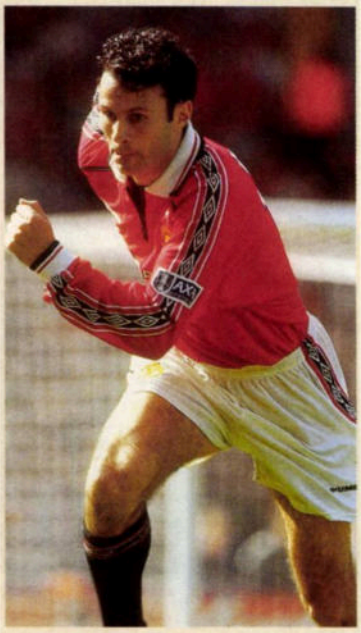
At least Inter found a neat way of avoiding a scrap with Nigeria over the availability of defender Taribo West for the African Nations Cup. They sold him to neighbours Milan.

A poisoned chalice?

A GENEROUS gesture by MSV Duisburg. All babies born on New Year's Day are eligible to claim life membership at the club. Now Duisburg merely have to ensure that it's a prize worth having.

CNN WORLD SOCCER

CLUB OF THE MONTH



TOP 10 STANDINGS

1 MANCHESTER UNITED
2 LAZIO
3 JUVENTUS
4 BAYERN MUNICH
5 RIVER PLATE
6 DEPORTIVO LA CORUNA
7 LEEDS
8 CORINTHIANS
9 BARCELONA
10 FLAMENGO

Diego's decline

Centre of attention...Maradona holds court before his latest health scare

FINANCIAL FOOTBALL

The high cost

THE 'Habsburg Option' put forward by Austria and Hungary to host the 2004 European Championship was always likely to lose out to Spain's bid, let alone that of surprise winners Portugal. The defeat nevertheless was a big disappointment for Austrian football, which could have done with the investment that the event would have brought.

It was envisaged that a successful bid would generate more than £4billion investment in stadiums; now following the bid's rejection less than a quarter of that sum is available.

Yet hope could be appearing for some Austrian clubs in the form of private investors, who may take the place of state funding. The reason for their appearance is the much-maligned Champions League and, to a lesser extent, the UEFA Cup.

The promise of the wealth that participation in the group stages of the Champions League will bring, and the potential money to be made from the sale of UEFA Cup TV rights, recently has encouraged investment in Central and East European clubs that otherwise may not have occurred.

In Austria, the Bundesliga clubs already have shown their awareness of the reforms required to restructure a game that has been suffering financially. In December, the Bundesliga voted to

and fall

Another positive drugs test for 'tragic' Maradona

DIEGO MARADONA's tragic descent from superstar status continues. A New Year holiday was cut short by his emergency admission to a private hospital in the Uruguay resort of Punta del Este. The subsequent positive test for cocaine offered further proof that Maradona's health is being destroyed by his long-term drug addiction.

Two weeks earlier he had been showered with praise across the River Plate in Buenos Aires when receiving an Argentinian Sportsman of the Century award. Yet as soon as news of his hospitalisation emerged, rumours of a cocaine overdose were rife.

After Maradona was admitted suffering from high blood pressure and an abnormal heart rate, his long-time advisor and manager, Guillermo Coppola, said Maradona was recuperating well.

"This has nothing to do with drugs," insisted Coppola, who was cleared of drugs possession charges last year. He added that Maradona did not arrive in an ambulance or in a coma.

"He called me and told me he didn't feel well, that he was a bit bloated," Coppola said. Maradona received visits from close friends such as former president Carlos Menem and Boca Juniors striker Martin Palermo.

However, the following day, Maximo Costa Rocha, police chief for the Uruguayan province of Maldonado, told a packed press conference: "I have been authorised by a judge to inform you that our test [blood and urine] has resulted positive for cocaine."

Costa Rocha said that the consumption of drugs in Uruguay is not illegal, but that trafficking in them is. "The trafficker is the delinquent, the consumer is the victim. That is why he [Maradona] will not be detained and it is the trafficker we are looking for."

Coppola was reportedly questioned by Uruguayan police for four hours before being released.

The inquest into Maradona's decline and fall will take a lot longer.

Gavin Hamilton

Ill feeling...Maradona was rushed to hospital suffering from high blood pressure and hypertension

# of failure

Austria may pay heavily for 2004 bid rejection, says Oliver Butler

allow clubs to set up their own limited companies, thus encouraging investment and improving marketing performance.

Such investment has been forthcoming for a few clubs. Linz ASK, for example, set up a private company and then approved a £13m investment from two sports businessmen. Meanwhile, Iranian Farrokh Sharif, despite an unsuccessful history as a club president in Austria, teased a few clubs with his millions before apparently plumping for Austria Wien.

In general, however, the culture of investment has been slow to develop in Austria, and has been hampered by disunity within the game. This has not been helped by Austro-Canadian magnate Frank Stronach's election as president of the Bundesliga last February. The poorer clubs, who elected him on a promise of investment of £5m in each club in the top flight, along with financial incentives and a share of the profits of a future TV channel, are now set against the richer ones, such as champions Sturm Graz. The latter group are perturbed by Stronach's sudden rise to power and by his use of it to dilute theirs.

The disunity was exacerbated by Stronach's threat to withhold his investment from the 14 clubs who had signed marketing and future rights agreements with him if they did not withdraw from their collective deal with state broadcaster ORF until 2005.

While such arguments and power struggles might be seen as natural, and perhaps necessary, for an industry in a period of transition, if a sense of stability is not established soon, Austrian clubs may lose international investors, who will instead head over the borders to the Czech Republic, Switzerland or Slovakia.

Oliver Butler writes for Soccer Investor *(0171-329 3500)*

Roa: 'I don't miss soccer'

The Argentinian who gave up football for God

ONE of the strangest stories to come out of soccer last year was that of Argentina's international goalkeeper, Carlos Roa, who decided to give up the game at the age of 30 in order to follow his religion.

Married with two children, Roa is currently living happily in Colonia Margarita, a village of 500 inhabitants in his native province of Santa Fe, although he intends to move soon to Cordoba province to grow vegetables and preach the Bible.

Roa, who retired soon after he had become a national team regular, says now that he never wanted to be a professional footballer and, as a boy, dreamed of being an air force pilot.

"I never enjoyed the hard work of training and then 'working' on Sunday, which, according to God, should be a rest day," he says. "I don't miss soccer, and all it brought me, in the least."

Roa is a devout Seventh Day Adventist and the idea of quitting the game had been in his mind for a long time. His wife, Silvia, knew that, but thought it would not happen for some time. When he finally told her that he was quitting his club side, Real Mallorca, she said she cried for a month, but never tried to change his mind.

Plenty of other people did. Mallorca club president Guillermo Reynes offered him half the money from a possible transfer to Manchester United – £4million – as his contract ran until 2001. Real Madrid were reported to be offering him big money to return to the game, and Argentina technical director Jose Pekerman was anxious to speak to Roa in an effort to convince him to return to the international set-up.

"I'm honoured that he still thinks I'm the best goalkeeper in the country, and I would like to talk to him," says Roa. "But he won't change my mind. Maybe I can teach him something about the Bible."

How could Roa refuse so much money? "Money isn't everything," he says. "God is more important."

His team-mates at Mallorca thought he was crazy, and at one game a big placard read: "Roa, for God's sake, stay." The Argentinian laughs as he remembers the incident, but in actual fact it was for God's sake that he left.

Roa began playing professionally for Racing Club, making his First Division debut in November 1988, at the age of 19. He moved on to Lanus, although in 1993, River Plate wanted to sign him but were told to be wary because he belonged to a sect.

Four years later he made what was to be his final move, to Mallorca, where he became a fans' favourite in his two seasons there, helping them to the last Cup-winners Cup Final, against Lazio.

Meanwhile, Roa had established himself as his country's top goalkeeper. He won 14 caps and said that if God gave him the chance to go to one World Cup, he would quit. He was true to his word, a year after playing in France 98.

Eric Weil

Guidance from above...Carlos Roa

Back in town...Dugarry

Dugarry goes home

FRENCH World Cup winner **Christophe Dugarry** has rejoined his hometown club Bordeaux in a £3.5million move from Marseille.

The 27-year-old striker said: "I'm very happy to get back to the club which taught me my trade."

Dugarry, who joined Marseille from Barcelona two years ago, had become the target of fans furious at the club's slump in recent weeks.

COACHES ON THE MOVE

MUSICAL CHAIRS in Brazil. Gremio dismissed **Claudio Durate** after less than two months in charge and replaced him with **Emerson Leao**, lately at Internacional.

Paulo Autuori, who began the national championship at Internacional and ended it at Santos, moved again, to Cruzeiro, where he replaced Levir Culpi. Former Guarani boss **Carlos Alberto Silva** succeeded Autuori at Santos. Meanwhile, **Walmir Louruz** returned to Juventude after walking out on the club some six months ago.

South African club AmaZulu fired former national coach **Clive Barker** after the side lost five League matches in a row. Former international **Gavin Lane** has been appointed caretaker until the season ends.

Ex-Liverpool goalkeeper **Bruce Grobbelaar** has taken charge at SuperSport, who dismissed Scotsman Roy Matthews after the team dropped into the relegation zone.

In Russia, **Valery Gazzayev,** formerly with Alaniya Vladikavkaz, has succeeded Alexei Petrushi at Moscow Dynamo. **Vladimir Fedotov** has been fired by Chernomorets after just five months in charge.

In Japan, Urawa Reds have promoted **Kazuo Saito** from their backroom staff to replace Aad De Mos as team coach.

Georgia now have two national coaches after former internationals **David Kipiani** and **Revaz Dzodzuashvili** were appointed to share the duties following the departure of Dutchman Johan Boskamp. It is a second spell in charge for Kipiani, who will remain at the helm of club side Torpedo Kutaisi. Dzodzuashvili, Kipiani's former assistant in the national set-up, was in charge of Latvia during the Euro 2000 qualifiers.

Ahmed Aleskerov paid the price for a poor Euro 2000 campaign when he was sacked as Azerbaijan's coach.

In Malawi, former international **Young Chimodzi** has succeeded **Jack Chamangwana** as national coach.

Ricardo Lopez Tenorio has been appointed as El Salvador's national coach.

Anghel Iordanescu, who took Romania to the last two World Cup finals, is to coach Saudi Arabians Al Hilal, succeeding Brazilian **Lori Sandri,** who quit after a row over team selection.

Former Hamburg boss **Josip Skoblar** has been named Lebanon's new national coach.

Moldova have promoted Under-21 coach **Alexandru Matsura** to guide the senior

team through the 2002 World Cup qualifiers. He succeeds Ivan Daniliants, who quit in October after an abysmal Euro 2000 qualifying campaign.

COACHES STAYING ON

SPAIN coach **Jose Antonio Camacho** has extended his contract to take in the 2002 World Cup finals.

Everton boss **Walter Smith** will remain at the club until 2003 after adding two years to his current contract.

Planning...Camacho

OUT OF ACTION

BARI'S South African striker **Phil Masinga** has been ruled out for the rest of the season after undergoing cruciate ligament surgery.

In Spain, Valencia defender **David Albelda** broke a leg against Rayo Vallecano and is out for at least three months.

Aston Villa's **Dion Dublin** will miss the rest of the season after breaking his neck, while knee problems are likely to keep Manchester United's **Jesper Blomqvist** sidelined until March.

Ghanaian international goalkeeper **James Nanor** has been suspended for a year for spitting at a referee.

Ten players from Uruguayan champions Penarol have been banned for instigating a brawl at the end of the Mercosur Cup semi-final, second leg against Brazilians Flamengo.

Walter Pandiani was given the stiffest sentence – banned for 10 matches in international club competition – while Martin Garcia was suspended for six games. The club was fined £6,000.

Penarol captain **Pablo Bengoechea** was suspended for three months after failing a drugs test following the same game, which his side won 3-2 but went out 5-3 on aggregate.

Former Bulgarian international forward **Emil Kostadinov** has retired after sustaining a serious calf injury while playing for German Second Division side FSV Mainz.

Sheffield Wednesday defender **Earl Barrett** has also been forced to quit, as the result of a serious knee injury. He played three times for England in the early 1990s.

INTERNATIONAL INS AND OUTS

CHINA defender **Sun Jihai** has been banned from internationals for a year after butting an assistant referee during the Olympic qualifying game against South Korea in Seoul in October.

OBITUARIES

FORMER Kyiv Dynamo and Soviet Union midfielder **Viktor Kolotov** has died of a heart attack at 50. He led Dynamo to the Soviet title in 1971 and the Cup-winners Cup four years later. Kolotov played 53 times for the Soviet Union, including the 1972 European Nations Cup Final defeat by West Germany.

America de Cali central defender **Carlos Montoya** committed suicide on December 10. The Colombian was having psychiatric treatment for a nervous ailment and depression.

Another Colombian, Atletico National midfielder **Juan Guillermo Villa**, was shot dead in Medellin by gunmen. Villa, 24, had just helped his club win the League title.

TRANSFERS

		FROM	TO
ALBERTO	D	Atletico Paranaense	Udinese
ALEX ALVES	F	Cruzeiro	Hertha Berlin
Gerald BATICLE	M	Auxerre	Metz
Imants BLEIDELIS	M	Skonto Riga	Southampton
Vas BORBOKIS	D	Derby	PAOK
Goran BUNJEVCEVIC	D	Red Star Belgrade	Hertha Berlin
Tom CALUWE	M	Mechelen	Willem II
Jorge CASANOVA	M	Bella Vista (Montevideo)	Lecce
Lambros CHOUTOS	F	Roma	Olympiakos
Giacomo CIPRIANI	F	Bologna	Lecce
Gianluca COLONNELLO	D	Lecce	Olympiakos
Ivan CORDOBA	D	San Lorenzo	Internazionale
Sergio CORINO	D	Espanyol	Real Sociedad
Andre CRUZ	D	Torino	Sporting Lisbon
Neil CUTLER	G	Chester	Aston Villa
Ousmane DABO	F	Internazionale	Parma
Simon DAVIES	M	Peterborough	Tottenham
Pascual DE GREGORIO	F	Colo Colo	Bari
Georgi DEMETRADZE	F	Alaniya Vladikavkaz	Kyiv Dynamo
Fernando DER ORNELAS	M	Crystal Palace	Zaragoza
Kaba DIAWARA	F	Marseille	Paris Saint-Germain
Christophe DUGARRY	F	Marseille	Bordeaux
Franck DUMAS	D	Newcastle	Marseille
Darren EADIE	M	Norwich	Leicester
Matthew ETHERINGTON	M	Peterborough	Tottenham
Carlos Alberto GALVAN	D	Atletico Mineiro	Santos
Mauricio GANZ	F	Milan	Venezia (loan)
Michael GOOSSENS	F	Schalke	Standard Liege
Jocelyn GOURVENNEC	M	Montpellier	Rennes
Thomas HELMER	D	Hertha Berlin	Sunderland (end of loan)
Masami IHARA	D	Yokohama F Marinos	Jubilo Iwata
JOSE MARI Romero	F	Atletico Madrid	Milan
JUNIOR BAIANO	D	Palmeiras	Vasco da Gama
Dmitri KHOKHLOV	M	PSV Eindhoven	Real Sociedad
Kevin KILBANE	F	West Brom	Sunderland
Morten KNUTSEN	M	Start	Rosenborg
Miroslav KONIG	G	Slovan Bratislava	Grasshopper
Sylvain LEGWINSKI	M	Monaco	Bordeaux
Jerome LEROY	M	Paris Saint-Germain	Marseille
Triantafilos MAHERIDIS	M	PAOK	Benfica
Emile MPENZA	F	Standard Liege	Schalke
Mbo MPENZA	F	Standard Liege	Sporting Lisbon
Adrian MUTU	F	Dinamo Bucharest	Internazionale
Erik NEVLAND	F	Manchester United	Viking Stavanger
Antti NIEMI	G	Rangers	Hearts
Roger NILSEN	D	Grazer AK	Molde
Osman NYAN	M	Stromsgodset	Panathinaikos
Carlton PALMER	M	Nottingham Forest	Coventry
Dejan PETKOVIC	F	Venezia	Flamengo
Bogic POPOVIC	F	Hajduk Belgrade	Hammarby
Paulo RINK	F	Santos	Leverkusen (end of loan)
Omer RIZA	F	Arsenal	West Ham
Bruno RODRIGUEZ	F	Paris Saint-Germain	Lens
Tomislav RUKAVINA	M	Croatia Zagreb	Venezia
Abdelsatar SABRY	F	PAOK	Benfica
Moussa SAIB	M	Tottenham	Al Nassr
Erwin SANCHEZ	F	Benfica	Boavista
Rafael SCHEIDT	D	Gremio	Celtic
Clarence SEEDORF	M	Real Madrid	Internazionale
SERGEN Yalcin	M	Fenerbahce	Galatasaray
Fitzroy SIMPSON	M	Manchester City	Hearts
Branko STRUPAR	F	Genk	Derby
Alphonse TCHAMI	F	Hertha Berlin	Al Wasl
Sergei TEREHHOV	M	Flora Tallinn	Brann Bergen
Emerson THOME	D	Sheffield Wednesday	Chelsea
Robert TOMASCHEK	M	Slovan Bratislava	Hearts
Djordje TOMIC	M	Partizan Belgrade	Bordeaux
TUGAY Kerimoglu	M	Galatasaray	Rangers
Christian URIBE	M	Colo Colo	Benfica
Jaime VALDES	F	Palestino	Bari
Dragan VASILJEVIC	D	Radnicki Nis	Hammarby
Taribo WEST	D	Internazionale	Milan
Jason WILCOX	M	Blackburn	Leeds
Murat YAKIN	M	Fenerbahce	Kaiserslautern
ZE ALCINO	F	Gremio	Nancy

Libero BOOKS

The monthly page rounding up the best (and worst) in football publishing

BOOK OF THE MONTH

NOT FOR SALE: MANCHESTER UNITED, MURDOCH AND THE DEFEAT OF BSKYB

by Adam Brown and Andy Walsh

(Mainstream, £9.99)

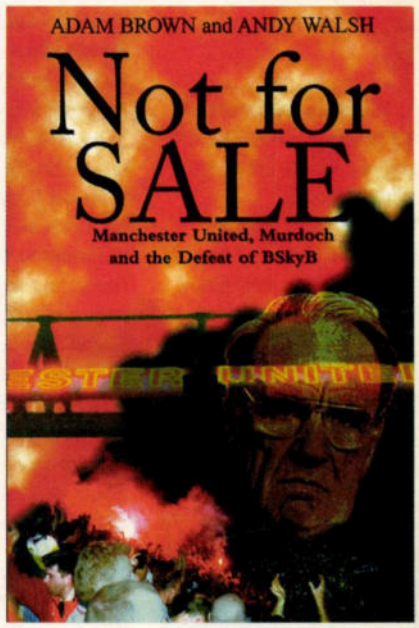
WHEN Rupert Murdoch tried to buy Manchester United in September 1998, most commentators, this one included, expected the deal to be cleared by the government. That it wasn't is due in great part to the authors of this book and their comrades, who, against all the odds, took on one of the world's most powerful media moguls and won.

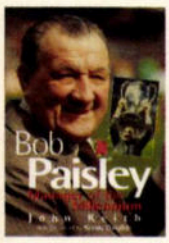
This book follows the campaign by the 'Independent Manchester United Supporters Association and Shareholders United against Murdoch' from the announcement of the bid to its blocking in April last year, and illustrates how supporters can effectively organise themselves into a force to be reckoned with.

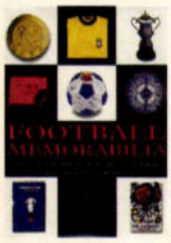
***Not For Sale* also examines some of the weightier issues involved, such as competition policy and the politics of New Labour in relation to football. The chapter on the Monopolies and Mergers Commission's final report gives an excellent precis without blinding the reader with legal jargon.**

With more clubs throughout Europe becoming targets for media companies, this book has a relevance for an ever-increasing number of supporters whose passion for their club goes a little further than whether they win their next match.

Simon Banks







BOB PAISLEY: MANAGER OF THE MILLENNIUM

by John Keith

(Robson, £17.95)

SOME managers have won more trophies than Bob Paisley, in places such as Scotland and the Middle East, where there is hardly any competition for the top one or two to worry about – but nobody can match his record in a major soccer-playing country.

Bill Shankly did well enough for Liverpool in his 14 seasons, winning the Second Division once, the First Division three times, the FA Cup twice and the UEFA Cup once, as well as establishing a remarkable reputation as a 'character' never lost for a quotable remark.

When Paisley, reluctantly, succeeded him in 1974, nobody – least of all the 55-year-old new man – could have expected him to improve on his old boss's performance. But he did.

Paisley's first season in charge passed without the club collecting a single trophy. In the next eight seasons, however, he won six championships, three League Cups, three European Cups and one UEFA Cup, as well as such minor baubles as five Charity Shields, one European Super Cup, and enough whisky to float a ship after 23 monthly or annual 'top boss' awards from Bells.

How Paisley did it is told in this hefty tome (348 pages) by John Keith, a journalist based on Merseyside for more than a quarter of a century. Not much happened in and around Anfield during those years without Keith being aware of it, and that incomparable period in the club's history comes back to life in his book.

You remember those years too, don't you? The time when there was still a Home International Championship, and you had to finish top of the First Division in May before you could contest the European Cup the following September.

There is not much in the way of criticism in Keith's book, but there is a lot of detailed analysis, loads of stats and ample anecdotage. Enough to keep your average Red fan happy, anyway.

They will enjoy this lengthy stroll down memory lane, even though they must acknowledge, sadly, that such remarkable times will never come again.

No club will ever dominate English football the way Bob's boys did – not even Manchester United.

David Prole

FOOTBALL MEMORABILIA

by Robert McElroy and Grant MacDougall

(Carlton, £25)

AN ideal guide for the serious collector of soccer artefacts, be they jerseys, caps, cups, plates, books, pictures or whatever – although sadly the authors/collectors have been unable to unearth one of Billy Meredith's toothpicks.

The range of illustrations almost matches the range of prices paid for the items at various sales. The text is somewhat heavy going, but it's entertaining enough.

For collectors, though, and not for the simple fan, who might need to put his £25 towards his next outing to a Premiership match.

Mel Duke

ANNUARIO DEL CALCIO MONDIALE 1999-2000

edited by Salvatore Lo Presti

(SET, about £20)

THE 12th edition of the Italian guide to world football, produced by the publishers of *La Gazzetta dello Sport*, remains *the* comprehensive examination of the world of *calcio*.

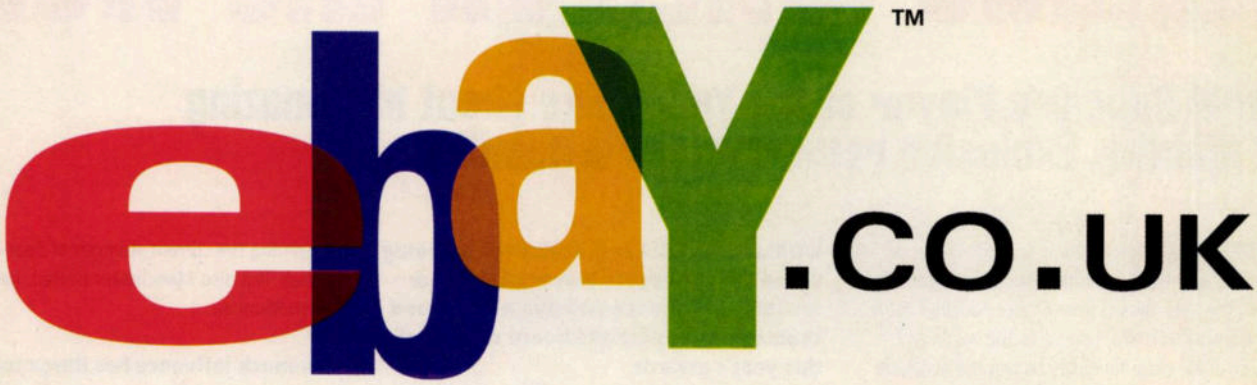
As ever, Italian football is exhaustively covered, from Serie A through to the *femminile* – women's game. Every participating nation and club in UEFA competition is detailed, with sections covering South America, Africa and Asia, including all relevant contact addresses, with an invaluable listing of electronic sources.

Special features this year include a chronological listing of major footballing events of the last century, interwoven with general news 'markers'. An ability to read Italian is not essential since most of the data is easy to interpret.

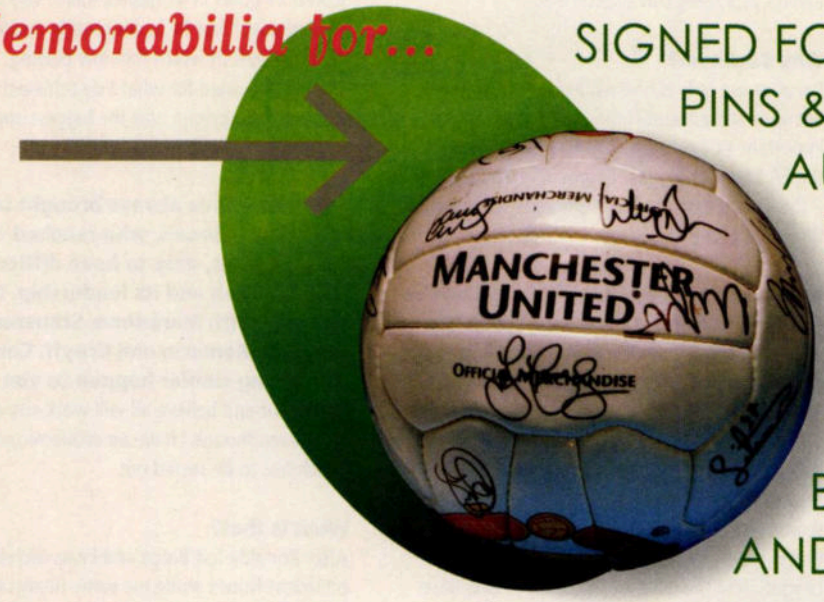
This is definitely a tome for which every serious student of the world game should find space.

Daniel Fein

Surf your way to a great deal!



Click on Sports Memorabilia for...



SIGNED FOOTBALLS
PINS & BADGES
AUTOGRAPHS
PHOTOGRAPHS
PROGRAMMES
SIGNED SHIRTS
TRADING CARDS
BANNERS & FLAGS
AND MUCH MORE...

What is eBay?

eBay is your gateway to buying and selling online!
eBay hosts hundreds of thousands of online auctions every day.
eBay has over 7 million users - people who may share your interests!

How do I get started?

It only takes three simple steps: 1. Go to www.ebay.co.uk 2. Register on the site - it's easy and free and all you need is an email address 3. Start bidding and selling!

Still having a question? ukenquiries@ebay.com

find us at **http://www.ebay.co.uk**

Rivaldo takes on the world

World Soccer's Player of the Year talks about his amazing 12 months. Exclusive report by Gavin Hamilton

FIRST he was voted *World Soccer*'s Player of the Year. Then came the European Footballer of the Year award from *France Football*. Now Vitor Barbosa Ferreira, known to the world as Rivaldo, is the clear favourite to win the accolade of FIFA World Footballer of the Year.

There can be few people who would begrudge the Brazilian his success. Over the past 12 months Rivaldo has been the most consistently outstanding individual in world football. With Barcelona, he has won successive Spanish League titles, scoring 24 goals from left midfield last season alone. At international level, his performances at the Copa America helped restore pride and confidence to Brazil after the troubling events before, during and after the 1998 World Cup Final.

In many ways, Rivaldo is a most unlikely hero. He lacks the pop-star looks of Beckham, the physical presence of Batistuta, the explosive pace of Ronaldo. Instead, the bow-legged boy from Recife cuts a frail figure on the pitch.

But the fragile frame belies an outstanding footballing brain and a steely determination born of having to make a 20km round trip to training on foot as a boy.

Off the pitch, the belligerent side of Rivaldo's character has manifested itself in disputes with Barça coach Louis Van Gaal (reported on page 54) and the respected magazine (and ESM partner) *Don Balon*. The player is refusing to talk to the Barcelona-based title in protest at their publication of an interview that included comments about Barça team-mates. Rivaldo insists he did not make them, the tapes of the interview suggest otherwise, and the matter remains in the hands of the lawyers.

Last year, Rivaldo was reluctant to attend the FIFA Footballer of the Year gala in Barcelona when it emerged he would be receiving only an award as Spanish player of the season. Twelve months on in Brussels, things are very different.

WORLD SOCCER: Congratulations on being voted *World Soccer*'s Player of the Year for 1999. You must now have a very good chance of sweeping the board with all of this year's awards.

RIVALDO: My chances are good. I hope I win everything. Such a result would be an enormous satisfaction both for me and my family, especially since it was achieved coming off the back of Brazil's defeat in the 1998 World Cup Final. But there are other prospective candidates for the FIFA award, especially David Beckham.

Why Beckham?

Because not only is he an outstanding player, but with Manchester United he has won every important title possible: the English championship, the FA Cup, the biggest European club competition – the Champions League – and most recently the World Club Cup in Tokyo.

In the past year you have helped Barcelona win the Spanish League and Brazil the Copa America. Whom would Rivaldo choose to be the World Player of the Year for 1999?

Rivaldo.

Why?

Because I'm the best player. For example, I have scored more goals than Beckham. I accept, though, that it is very important to win the Champions League. And this season, we at Barcelona have a very good chance of doing it. When we were knocked out at the first-round stage last year, we had a lot of new players in the side. Now we make a very strong and compact unit. For me, Barça remain the favourites to win the Champions League.

Who will be the biggest threats to Barcelona in the Champions League?

Real Madrid and Valencia, underlining the current strength of Spanish football. But also Manchester United, Lazio and Bayern Munich.

How much influence has Barça coach Louis Van Gaal had on your development into the player many consider the world's best?

It was vital for my development that I came to play in Europe. Even before arriving at Barça, I had played very well for Deportivo La Coruna and scored 21 goals in 41 games there. Van Gaal is my present coach but he is not greatly responsible for the high level at which I'm now playing. I have worked very hard for what I've achieved but coming to Barcelona was the biggest opportunity of my career.

Barcelona have always brought in big stars from abroad, who reached the top, became idols, only to have difficulties with the club and its leadership. It was the case with Maradona, Schuster, Ronaldo, Romario and Cruyff. Can something similar happen to you ?

I hope not and believe all will work out well for me here, even though I have an economic problem which has to be sorted out.

What is that?

After Ronaldo left Barça and I was recruited, president Nunez made me some financial promises which up to now have not been fully met. This is the only problem I have at Barcelona and I trust it will at last be cleared up. I'm very fortunate to be here. I would only move from here in the event of an extreme problem.

Who are the best strikers in the world?

Raul at Real Madrid, Claudio Lopez at Valencia, Christian Vieri of Internazionale and Gabriel Batistuta

Finalist...at France 98

RIVALDO – LIFE AND TIMES

April 19, 1974 Born in Recife, Brazil.
1993 Makes his Brazilian League debut for Corinthians.
December 1993 Scores on his international debut for Brazil, a 1-0 win over Mexico in Guadalajara.
1994 Joins Palmeiras, winning the Brazilian national championship and the Sao Paulo state championship.
Summer 1996 Joins Spain's Deportivo La Coruna from Palmeiras.
July 1996 Is blamed by many Brazilians for his country's defeat by Nigeria in the semi-finals of the Olympic Games soccer tournament.
Summer 1997 Joins Barcelona for £17million as a replacement for the Inter-bound Ronaldo after finishing the 1996-97 Spanish season with 21 League goals for Deportivo.
Summer 1998 Member of the Brazil side beaten by France in the World Cup Final.
May 1999 Wins the Spanish League

of Fiorentina. But for me, Ronaldo indisputably remains the best player in the world, that is when he recovers from his latest injury. I see myself as an attacking central midfielder, playing behind the strikers. There I have more space and freedom.

What does the number 10 shirt of the Brazilian national team mean to you?
Lots of pressure and still more responsibility. The number 10 means a huge commitment. Brazil's legendary players wore that shirt – Pele, Zico, Rivelino. I have, however, no difficulty with it. I just prefer 11.

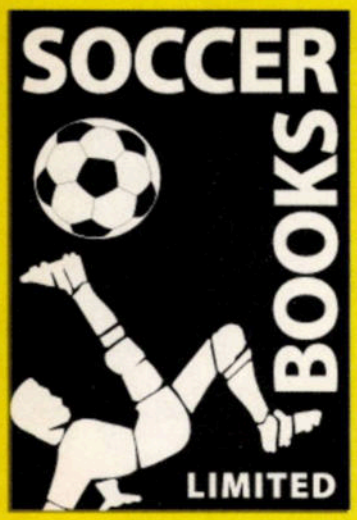
Why?
Because even as a young player I wore 11. Rivaldo was and is number 11. Especially for the fans. That's the reason I carry on wearing this number at Barcelona. Even though the number 10 was available at the start of this season and was offered to me.

Who has been your hardest opponent?
I don't want to give any names, but German and English defenders have impressed me.

Who has had the most influence on your career?
Above all, my father. He was my first real coach but unfortunately lost his life in a car accident when I was 16. He made me a footballer, the one I remain today. The awards that I have won this past year, I have dedicated to him.

How do you see the rest of your career?
I thank God that up to now I've been spared bad injuries, the ones that take away some of your speed. But I don't think I will still be playing beyond the age of 34 or 35. My mid-30s will be the end. Until then I aim to win as many titles as I possibly can and to earn enough money to live comfortably for the rest of my days.

for the second successive season with Barça. Finishes the campaign as the country's second highest scorer with 24 goals.
July 1999 Inspires Brazil to victory in the Copa America in Paraguay.
December 1999 Voted World Player of the Year by *World Soccer* and European Footballer of the Year by *France Football*.



ARCHIVE PHOTOGRAPHS SERIES

All titles are Softback books and comprise 128 pages which contain over 200 excellent quality black and white photographs including some of the earliest captured images available for each club.

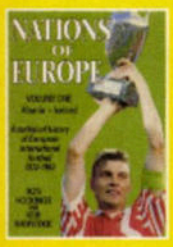
Price of each £9.99 **Postage Rate of each 'B'** *(New Titles are shown in Italics) –*

Bristol Rovers F.C.
Cardiff City F.C. 1899-1947
Charlton Athletic F.C.
Exeter City F.C. 1904-1994
Heart of Midlothian F.C.
Merthyr Tydfil F.C.
Newport County F.C. 1912-60
Queen of the South F.C.
Sheffield United F.C.
Swansea Town F.C. 1912-1964
Tranmere Rovers F.C.

Burnley F.C. 1882-1968
Cardiff City F.C. 1947-1974
Crewe Alexandra F.C.
Gillingham F.C.
Hull City F.C.
Millwall F.C.
Oxford United F.C.
Rangers F.C. 1872-1964
Stoke City F.C.
Third Lanark F.C.

Bury F.C.
Celtic F.C. 1887-1967
Crystal Palace F.C.
Greenock Morton F.C. 1874-1999
Leeds United F.C.
Motherwell F.C. 1886-1999
Plymouth Argyle F.C. 1886-1986
Reading F.C. 1871-1997
Sunderland F.C.
Torquay United F.C. 1899-1999

Also available in a similar format: – Anfield Voices *Goodison Park Voices* Roker Park Voices



NATIONS OF EUROPE
VOLUME 1 – ALBANIA TO ICELAND
VOLUME 2 – ITALY TO YUGOSLAVIA

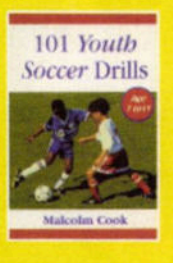
A statistical history of international football in Europe 1872-1993. With line-ups, goalscorers, venues and attendances plus a history and photographs. Produced in two large-sized hardback volumes.

Hardback Price of each £19.95
Postage Rate of each 'E'

UMBRO CONDITIONING FOR FOOTBALL

This large-sized book contains a complete fitness programme for players of all levels. Information is included on all aspects of fitness from training methods to dietary advice.

Softback Price £9.99
Postage Rate 'C'



101 YOUTH SOCCER DRILLS – AGE 7 TO 11

A useful book containing over 100 Soccer drills aimed specifically for use with 7 to 11 year-olds.

Softback Price £9.99
Postage Rate 'A'

Also available (same price and postage): –

101 YOUTH SOCCER DRILLS – AGE 12 TO 16

FOOTBALL WIZARDRY – FLICKS AND TRICKS OF THE GREATS

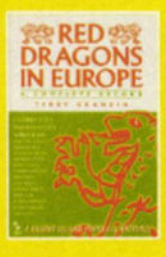
A full-colour book showing how to imitate some of the skills and techniques of the world's greatest players. Each skill is illustrated by a series of photos.

Hardback Price £14.99
Postage Rate 'C'

100 ANNI DEL CAMPIONATO DI CALCIO

A large-size, well-illustrated Italian-language history of Serie A. With 312-pages this book includes final league tables for each season together with squad-listings for the teams in each season.

Softback Price £24.95
Postage Rate 'D'



RED DRAGONS IN EUROPE – A COMPLETE RECORD

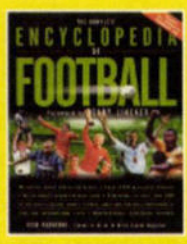
An excellent new book which contains full statistical information and a match report of every game 16 Welsh club sides have played in European competition.

Hardback Price £14.99
Postage Rate 'B'

UP FOR THE CUP!

A 144-page review of British clubs in European competition since 1955.

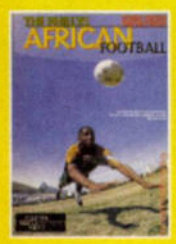
Softback Price £7.99
Postage Rate 'B'



THE COMPLETE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF FOOTBALL

A massive 646-page updated encyclopedia of World Football by Keir Radnedge, editor of World Soccer Magazine.

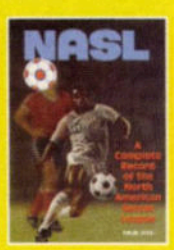
Hardback Price £29.95
Postage Rate 'E'



THE PHILLYS AFRICAN FOOTBALL YEARBOOK 1999

The improved 238-page 2nd edition of this statistical yearbook of African International football is fully updated and includes a players who's who.

Softback Price £19.95
Postage Rate 'B'



NASL – A COMPLETE RECORD OF THE NORTH AMERICAN SOCCER LEAGUE

A large-size definitive history of the North American Soccer League with details of the many European players.

Hardback Price £17.95
Postage Rate 'E'

SOCCER – THE WORLD CUP 1930-1998

The 4th edition of the definitive history of the World Cup. Every Final Series is written up in refreshing, readable detail and every match played is listed in the country-by-country statistical section. All qualifying competition results are included.

Hardback Price £14.95
Postage Rate 'C'

SOCCER: THE EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 1958-1996

A 192-page definitive history of the European Nations' Championship featuring write-ups of each series to 1996, all qualifying results and scorers and a full country-by-country record of games played.

Hardback Price £11.95
Postage Rate 'B'

AU REVOIR FRANCE '98

An excellent large-sized, full-colour photographic book about the 1998 World Cup Finals. Also contains match reports & statistics + articles about players and teams. This book is 'tri-lingual' in English, Spanish and Italian.

Hardback Price £25.00
Postage Rate 'D'

A-Z DEL FÚTBOL EUROPEO 1998/99

The latest edition of this bestseller contains details of over 12,000 players from Europe's top 34 divisions. Spanish-language but with English descriptions of the statistics.

Softback Price £28.50
Postage Rate 'D'

THE A-Z OF ASIAN FOOTBALL 98-99

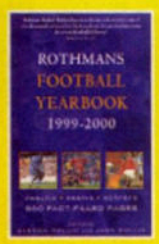
The new edition of this full-colour, well-illustrated A-Z of Asian Football now includes Final League tables for the main League in each country covered. This book is Officially endorsed by the Asian Football Confederation.

Softback Price £23.95
Postage Rate 'C'

A-Z DEL FÚTBOL EN AMÉRICA 1998-1999

The 2nd edition of this Spanish-language title contains statistical records for thousands of North, South and Central American footballers.

Softback Price £19.95
Postage Rate 'B'



ROTHMANS FOOTBALL YEARBOOK 1999-2000

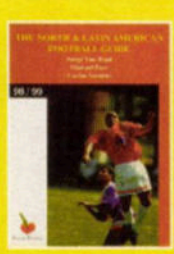
This 30th edition of the best-selling football annual contains almost 1000-pages of information about British football.

Softback Price £18.99
Hardback Price £30.00
Postage Rate 'D'

ANNUARIO DEL CALCIO MONDIALE 1999-2000

The new 12th edition of this Italian-language yearbook contains a huge amount of information about world football.

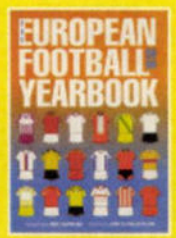
Hardback Price £22.00
Postage Rate 'D'



NORTH & LATIN AMERICAN FOOTBALL GUIDE 98/99

The 6th edition of this guide contains over 400 pages of updated information for all the CONCACAF and South American countries.

Softback Price £27.50
Postage Rate 'D'



THE EUROPEAN FOOTBALL YEARBOOK 1999/2000

The new edition of this masterpiece is crammed with information on European Football which includes statistics for the top teams in over 50 countries.

Softback Price £23.95
Postage Rate 'E'

Back issues also available – Postage Rate 'D' : –

1996-97	*ROTHMANS SOFTBACK EDITION*	*£17.99*
1995-96	*ROTHMANS HARDBACK EDITION*	*£30.00*
1993-94	*ROTHMANS HARDBACK EDITION*	*£27.50*
1992-93	*ROTHMANS SOFTBACK EDITION*	*£17.99*
1991-92	*ROTHMANS SOFTBACK EDITION*	*£17.99*
1990-91	*ROTHMANS SOFTBACK EDITION*	*£17.99*
1989-90	*ROTHMANS SOFTBACK EDITION*	*£17.99*
1988-89	*ROTHMANS SOFTBACK EDITION*	*£17.99*

Back Issues also available – Postage Rate 'D' : –

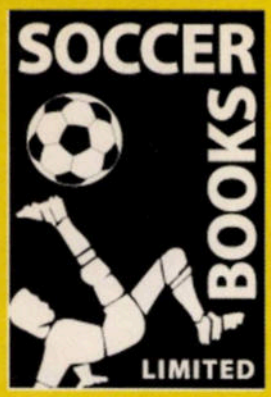
1998-99	*ANNUARIO DEL CALCIO MONDIALE*	*£22.00*
1997-98	*ANNUARIO DEL CALCIO MONDIALE*	*£22.00*
1996-97	*ANNUARIO DEL CALCIO MONDIALE*	*£22.00*
1995-96	*ANNUARIO DEL CALCIO MONDIALE*	*£22.00*
1994-95	*ANNUARIO DEL CALCIO MONDIALE*	*£22.00*
1993-94	*ANNUARIO DEL CALCIO MONDIALE*	*£25.00*
1992-93	*ANNUARIO DEL CALCIO MONDIALE*	*£25.00*
1991-92	*ANNUARIO DEL CALCIO MONDIALE*	*£25.00*
1990-91	*ANNUARIO DEL CALCIO MONDIALE*	*£25.00*
1989-90	*ANNUARIO DEL CALCIO MONDIALE*	*£25.00*

Also available – Postage Rate 'C' : –

1997/98	*NORTH & LATIN AMERICAN GUIDE*	*£27.50*
1996/97	*NORTH & LATIN AMERICAN GUIDE*	*£27.50*
1995/96	*NORTH & LATIN AMERICAN GUIDE*	*£27.50*
1994/95	*NORTH & LATIN AMERICAN GUIDE*	*£27.50*
1993/94	*NORTH & LATIN AMERICAN GUIDE*	*£22.50*

Also available – Postage Rate 'E' : –

1998/99	*EUROPEAN FOOTBALL YEARBOOK*	*£23.95*
1997/98	*EUROPEAN FOOTBALL YEARBOOK*	*£23.95*
1996/97	*EUROPEAN FOOTBALL YEARBOOK*	*£23.95*
1995/96	*EUROPEAN FOOTBALL YEARBOOK*	*£23.95*
1994/95	*EUROPEAN FOOTBALL YEARBOOK*	*£23.95*
1993/94	*EUROPEAN FOOTBALL YEARBOOK*	*£23.95*
1991/92	*EUROPEAN FTB. YEAR. (Hardback)*	*£23.95*



MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER '99 – YEAR IN REVIEW
A full-colour, well-illustrated magazine-style review of the 1999 season in MLS which includes all results and attendances.
Softback Price £8.99 Postage Rate 'A'

BOB PAISLEY – MANAGER OF THE MILLENNIUM
An excellent new biography of Liverpool's Bob Paisley, the most successful English manager of all time.
Hardback Price £17.95 Postage Rate 'D'

THREE LIONS ON THE SHIRT – PLAYING FOR ENGLAND
A history of the England team throughout the last century. Includes interviews with over 50 players and managers from past & present.
Hardback Price £18.99 Postage Rate 'D'

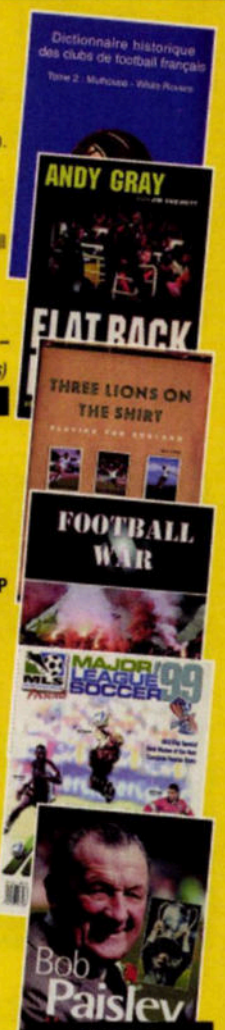
FOOTBALL & WAR
A interesting look at how events on the football field throughout the world are often mirrored in both politics and war.
Softback Price £6.95 Postage Rate 'A'

FLAT BACK FOUR – THE TACTICAL GAME
The new softback edition of this bestseller has been updated to include tactical analysis from 97/98 season & the 1998 World Cup.
Softback Price £6.99 Postage Rate 'B'

DICTIONNAIRE HISTORIQUE DES CLUBS DE FOOTBALL FRANÇAIS – TOME 2: MULHOUSE-WHITE ROVERS
The second volume of this French-language history of French football clubs contains 250-pages of information and statistics about more than 60 different teams.
Softback Price £19.95 Postage Rate 'C'

Also available (Softback Price £19.95 Postage Rate 'C') : –
TOME 1: ABBEVILLE–MONTPELLIER *(Covers over 90 clubs)*

http://www.soccer-books.co.uk e-mail – info@soccbook.demon.co.uk



PAL-FORMAT VIDEOS

(Suitable for UK, Europe & Australasia only)

All priced – £11.99 UK £16.99 Overseas
(All prices include postage – Overseas sent via Airmail)

Football Hall of Fame – The 1960's
Football Hall of Fame – The 1970's
Football Hall of Fame – The 1980's
Football Hall of Fame – The 1990's
Three Lions Roar! (England Road to Euro 2000)
Scotland the Brave (England 0 Scotland 1)

WORLD CUP OFFICIAL FILMS –

1954 World Cup	*1958 World Cup*
1962 World Cup	*1966 World Cup*
1970 World Cup	*1974 World Cup*
1978 World Cup	*1982 World Cup*
1986 World Cup	*1990 World Cup*

NTSC-FORMAT VIDEOS

(Available in U.S.A. & Canada only)

Each priced – £21.99 (Includes carriage by UPS)

The Treble – Manchester United '98-99 Season

WORLD CUP OFFICIAL FILMS –

All 10 World Cup Official Films as shown under PAL-format tapes are also available in NTSC-format

NORTHERN IRELAND PLAYERS' DIRECTORY 1999-2000
The new edition of this pocket-sized players directory for Northern Ireland also contains results from 1998/99 and fixtures for the year 2000.
Softback Price £5.99 Postage Rate 'A'

FRANCE AND THE 1998 WORLD CUP
Subtitled, 'The National Impact of a World Sporting Event', this serious study looks at the effects of the French victory in the 1998 World Cup.
Softback Price £18.99 Postage Rate 'B'

FUDBALSKA REPREZENTACIJA JUGOSLAVIJE 1920-1999
An interesting new book containing International line-ups and statistics for every match played by Yugoslavia in the past 80 years.
Softback Price £10.95 Postage Rate 'A'

VIALLI – A DIARY OF HIS SEASON
A day-by-day look at Gianluca Vialli's first full season in charge of Chelsea as written by Harry Harris.
Hardback Price £17.99 Postage Rate 'D'

PARADISE LOST AND FOUND – THE STORY OF BELFAST CELTIC
A history of Belfast Celtic from their formation in 1891 to their withdrawal from the Northern Irish League in 1949 after an incident in 1948 in which some of their players were attacked and deliberately injured by opposition fans.
Softback Price £9.99 Postage Rate 'B'

SOCCER – HOW TO PLAY THE GAME
This new US-published book is 'The Official Playing and Coaching Manual of the United States Soccer Federation'. Large-sized and well-illustrated in full-colour, this book contains over 300 pages of useful coaching information.
Softback Price £17.95 Postage Rate 'D'

WOMEN'S SOCCER THE GAME AND THE WORLD CUP
This US-published large-sized book is well-illustrated in full-colour and contains a look at the development of the womens' game and also the 1999 Women's World Cup.
Hardback Price £11.95 Postage Rate 'C'

POTTED SHRIMPS – SOUTHEND UNITED ENCYCLOPEDIA & HISTORY UPDATE 1992-1999
A detailed statistical and written update Southend United's last seven seasons together with an A-Z of the club and a complete players who's who from 1920 to 1999.
Softback Price £9.99 Postage Rate 'B'

FORTUNE'S ALWAYS HIDING? – WEST HAM UNITED FROM THE INSIDE
An insider's look at West Ham over the past five years, written by the editor of the Hammer's News magazine.
Softback Price £9.99 Postage Rate 'B'

THE HOMES OF FOOTBALL – THE PASSION OF A NATION
An excellent large-sized full-colour photographic book which is packed with photos showing all aspects of British football including many of stadia.
Softback Price £14.99 Postage Rate 'C'

10% DISCOUNT ON ORDERS OVER £60

STATISTICAL HISTORIES

A series of A4-sized, photocopied and slide-bound softback statistical histories with year-by-year League tables, club histories and club information.

Each title is priced £11.99 – Postage Rate 'B'

Albania 1930-1998 Austria 1911-1998 Belgium 1895-1998
Bulgaria 1937-98 Cyprus 1934-98 Czechoslovakia 1925-93
Denmark 1889-1998 Eire 1921-1998 East Germany 1948-1992
England 1871-1932 England 1932-1965 England 1965-date
Finland 1930-1998 France 1932-98 Germany 1902-44/1991-98
Greece 1921-98 Holland 1888-1954 Holland 1954-1998
Hungary 1901-1998 Iceland 1912-1998 Italy 1898-1998
Luxembourg 1909-1998 Malta 1909-1998 N. Ireland 1890-1998
Norway 1902-1998 Poland 1921-1998 Portugal 1921-1998
Romania 1921-1998 Scotland 1890-1945 Scotland 1947-1998
Spain 1928-1998 Sweden 1896-1998 Switzerland 1897-1998
Turkey 1922-1998 U.S.S.R. 1936-1962 U.S.S.R. 1963-1991
Wales 1877-1998 West Germany 1945-1991 Yugoslavia 1923-1998
Lithuania 1922-1998 Estonia 1921-1998 Latvia 1921-1998
Ex-Soviet Republics (Part 1) A-K Ex-Soviet Republics (Part 2) M-U
Argentina Prof. League 1931-97 Peru 1926-98 Uruguay 1900-98
Brazil Nat. Champs. 1900-97 Chile 1933-98 Colombia 1948-98
San Marino *Ecuador 1957-1998* *Belarus 1922-1998*

INTERNATIONAL LINE-UPS & STATISTICS

A series of A5-sized softback books with full match-by-match listings of opponents, venues, line-ups, dates, scores & scorers of international games.

Each Title is Priced £5.95 – Postage Rate 'A'

Australia 1922-1998 Argentina 1902-1970 Argentina 1971-1997
Brazil 1914-1970 Brazil 1971-1996 Canada 1885-1995
Chile 1910-1970 Chile 1971-1998 Colombia 1938-1996
Ecuador 1938-1997 Eire 1921-1996 England 1872-1960
England 1961-1996 Israel 1934-95 New Zealand 1885-1995
Northern Ireland 1882-1997 Paraguay 1919-1996 Peru 1927-1996
Scotland 1872-1960 U.S.A. 1885-1995 Wales 1876-1960
Wales 1961-96 Olympic Football 1900-64 Olympic Football 1968-96

ORDERING INFORMATION

DELIVERY – UK 1-2 weeks Europe 2-4 weeks North America 4-7 weeks Elsewhere up to 10 weeks Airmail to all parts, 3-12 days.

PAYMENT – We accept: All Major Credit Cards £ Sterling Cheques, Money Orders, Postal Orders, Switch & Delta debit cards or Cash US $ Cheques, Drafts and Money Orders Irish £ Cheques & Postal Orders Eurocheques made out in £ Sterling Overseas Currency Banknotes for many countries at current Tourist Selling Rates.

Postage Rate	A	B	C	D	E
UK Postage	£0.75	£1.50	£2.50	£3.50	£4.50
Surface Postage	£1.50	£2.50	£3.50	£6.00	£9.00
Airmail Postage	£3.00	£5.00	£7.00	£11.00	£15.00
	Maximum UK Postage £4.50				

GIRO Account Numbers (Please note that all Giro Accounts are in the name of J.M. & G. Robinson) – U.K. 278-2952 Denmark 748-9498 France 3778900 Holland 311-0730 Norway 0806-1915487 Sweden 5470-50-5

ORDER FORM

(173) **TITLES**

	PRICE £	PRICE p	POST £	POST p

Send to:
SOCCER BOOKS LTD. (WORLD SOCCER),
72 ST. PETERS AVENUE,
CLEETHORPES,
DN35 8HU. ENGLAND
Tel: (01472) 696226
(24 Hour Orderline)
Fax: (01472) 698546

FROM:

COST	
ORDERS OVER £60 LESS 10%	
SUBTOTAL	
+POST	
TOTAL	

Please make cheques payable to Soccer Books Limited

I enclose cheque/cash/British P.O. for the amount shown

I have paid into Giro Account Number ..... ☐

I wish to pay by Credit Card ☐ Expiry date.....

MasterCard Visa Amex Switch Delta

Card Number : – Switch Issue N° .....

10% DISCOUNT For World Soccer Subscribers Quote your subscription code

NATIONS CUP PREVIEW

Onwards and upwards

Final venue...Lagos will host the Nations Cup decider

Mark Gleeson sets the scene for the 22nd Cup of Nations

AS the years roll on, so the African Nations Cup finals continues to enjoy ever-increasing international attention. This year will be no exception, with the myriad stars from Europe's top leagues ensuring a continued worldwide profile for the biennial championship.

There has never been a lack of attention in Africa, where it is, without doubt, the biggest sporting event on the continent. Television coverage is vital to the Confederation of African Football (CAF), which derives 80 per cent of its revenue from the three-week tournament.

CAF has therefore gambled somewhat with its prize commodity by handing hosting rights over to Ghana and Nigeria little more than a year before the event's start. Co-hosting of the African Nations Cup finals, a novel experience for the continent, was forced upon CAF by the total incompetence and government disdain in Zimbabwe, which had been chosen as hosts back in 1996 but had done little in the way of preparation by last January.

CAF stripped Zimbabwe of the right to host the event, despite a flurry of late assurances that they would be ready. Ghana and Nigeria were asked to step in; they had both hosted tournaments in the early part of last year and had recently refurbished key venues.

Ghana hosted eight teams in the African Under-20 Championship, while Nigeria bumbled through the hosting of the Under-20 World Championship, but at least got the job done.

But the transfer has not been without hitches. The pitch in Accra had to be closed to domestic football for the months leading up to the opening game, on January 22, and there was a lack of hotel bookings for a tournament of this size.

Television executives were panicking after an inspection visit to Nigeria in December revealed that little had been done about securing broadcasting personnel and equipment for coverage of the matches in Lagos and Kano – the facilities in West Africa being inadequate and outside assistance required.

But to expect an African Nations Cup to be run with Swiss precision is to be in the wrong place. The charm of African football is its many foibles and, whatever the moans, the show always gets on the road, the matches are played and the fans are there. It might all be a bit tatty and disorganised but then money and skills do not flow as freely as in Europe and America.

And then, of course, there are the teams, including the two host nations, defending champions Egypt and the likes of Cameroon, Morocco, Tunisia and South Africa, who all figured at the 1998 World Cup finals in France.

Nigeria, who were also at the last World Cup, have been handed the taxing opening round group in Lagos, drawn with Morocco and Tunisia, who are two of the continent's form sides.

A lack of pre-tournament preparation and the departure of coach Thijs Libregts, because he had not been paid, left a void for several months before another Dutchman, Jo Bonfrere, returned to the post. Money demands also played a part in the failure of the likes of Nwankwo Kanu and Finidi George to arrive for Nigeria's warm-up internationals.

Ghana's footballers threatened a strike if they were not offered better bonuses for the tournament, but authorities there have been quicker to react and try to appease their star properties.

The Black Stars of Ghana will not have it easy in their group. They play in Accra against Cameroon and neighbours Ivory Coast, with whom they share an often nasty rivalry. Tiny Togo, the other side in the group, are not expected to be much of a threat, but beat Ghana in their opening-round game at the 1998 finals in Burkina Faso.

Defending champions Egypt are the seeded side in Kano, where they face Burkina Faso, Senegal and Zambia. South Africa, champions in 1996, have been handed the easiest opening group, with Algeria, Gabon and the Democratic Republic of Congo, the former Zaire.

Hayatou faces challenge

THREE important items will be on the agenda when Africa's football leaders meet in Accra two days before the tournament kicks off.

Confederation of African Football president Issa Hayatou faces a rare challenge for his post from Angolan Armando Machado, who has just stood down from the presidency of his own country's FA.

Machado, who speaks only Portuguese and has little of the flair and contacts that Hayatou's 12 years at the top ensure him, is not expected to put up much of a fight. But the challenge signals that there is discontent among the rank and file at CAF's leadership, and that this probably is the start of several more serious challenges.

More intrigue will be present in the other elections for posts on CAF's all-powerful executive committee, including the vice-presidency.

Finally, the hosts for the 2004 Nations Cup finals will be decided, with Egypt up against a joint bid from Benin and Togo. The Egyptians' late application rescued CAF and probably will save the Nations Cup from going to West Africa for a fourth successive time.

The lack of willing candidates reflects the economic malaise of the continent and the growing monetary demands of the Nations Cup circus. If it continues, we could well find CAF battling to find anyone willing to host the event.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Nwankwo Kanu

NWANKWO KANU has been a wanted man these past few weeks. The tug of war for his services between his club, Arsenal, and his country, Nigeria, emphasised just how much of a star commodity the newly-crowned African Footballer of the Year has become.

Arsenal were keen to retain Kanu's services for as long as possible before national duty at the Nations Cup called.

Nigeria, in contrast, were desperate to get their man as early as possible…even if that meant incurring the wrath of Arsenal by invoking FIFA's two-week rule, which forces clubs to make players available fourteen days before a tournament kicks off.

In the end, common sense prevailed. However, the uncertainty over the timing of Kanu's departure for the Nations Cup meant he was only a substitute in Arsenal's 0-0 draw in the FA Cup against Leicester. He then flew out to Lagos, to be welcomed home as a national hero: African football's latest superstar.

Kanu is expected to captain his country as they seek to win the Nations Cup on home soil. That will be despite having played just one full international for Nigeria since the World Cup in France.

But such is Kanu's status in Nigeria that this will be overlooked as the Super Eagles look for inspiration as they attempt to put the painful memories of their crushing 4-1 defeat by Denmark in Paris behind them.

A Nations Cup victory would be latest chapter in what has already been a remarkable career. Kanu made his debut at 16 for Ajax and had already won the European Cup, the World Club Cup, three Dutch League title and the World Under-17 championship, when, aged 19, he led Nigeria's challenge at the 1996 Olympic Games.

Kanu was hugely influential for the Nigerians as they shocked the world by beating Brazil and Argentina on the way to winning the gold medal.

But before he could enjoy the fame that such a victory brings, or the fortune that his subsequent move to Inter promised, Kanu's world turned upside down.

Medical tests in Milan revealed a chronic heart valve problem. He underwent surgery and his career hung in the balance for more than a year. That he has made a full recovery is testament to Kanu's wonderful natural talent as a footballer.

For such a tall man, Kanu has astonishingly quick feet, although he is quick to point out that they are not as big as some people have suggested. "My shoe size is 11," he insists. "I don't know where the stories came from that I wear size 14 but when I was playing football as a youth in Nigeria, people said that I had bigger feet than anyone else because of the way I could control a football."

The ball skills are, in fact, a product of hours of patient practice. "I practised in the street with a little rubber ball," he says. "As the ball was so small, I had to concentrate hard on my skills and my control, so when I moved on to using a bigger ball, it was easier to adapt."

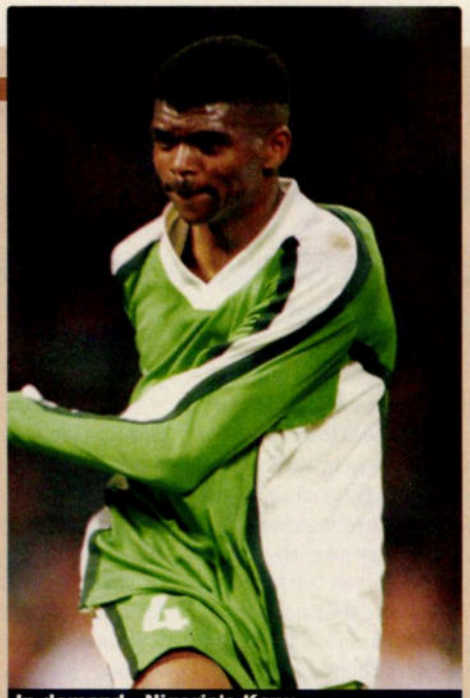
It has been less easy to adapt to life at Highbury, where coach Arsene Wenger has, more often than not, used Kanu as a substitute. But things are improving, not least because he is close to negotiating an improved contract – a reflection of his excellent performances for the Gunners. "It's inevitable when you move club and country that it will take time to settle, but I'm far happier at Arsenal now. I think that's been reflected by my recent performances and my goals."

Kanu has bought a house in Barnet for himself and his family, but there are no signs of Anelka-style isolationism. "I like living in London because it is so multicultural," he says.

"There are not just English people but Africans, Asians, many different nationalities. That's great for me because I can talk to different people, and try foods from many cultures. I've found a couple of nice African and Italian restaurants near to where I live and I hang out there a lot."

Over the next month, however, the restaurants of north London will have to wait. Nigeria expects.

John Holmesdale



In demand...Nigeria's Kanu

Fact file

Club Arsenal (Eng)
Country Nigeria
Born August 1, 1976
Previous clubs
Federation Works, Iwanyanwu Nationale, Ajax Amsterdam (Hol), Internazionale (Ita)
International debut
1994, v Sweden
International caps
12 (2 goals)
Honours
1996 Olympic gold medal; 1993 World Under-17 champion; 1995 European Cup; 1995 World Club Cup; 1994, 1995, 1996 Dutch League; 1995 European Supercup; 1993 Nigerian League; 1996, 1999 African Footballer of the Year

ANC THE DRAW

GROUP A

22.01.00 (Accra) .....Ghana v Cameroon
24.01.00 (Accra) .....Ivory Coast v Togo
27.01.00 (Accra).....Ghana v Togo
28.01.00 (Accra).....Cameroon v Ivory Coast
31.01.00 (Accra).....Ghana v Ivory Coast
31.01.00 (Kumasi).....Cameroon v Togo

GROUP B

23.01.00 (Kumasi) .....Gabon v South Africa
24.01.00 (Kumasi) .....Algeria v DR Congo
27.01.00 (Kumasi).DR Congo v South Africa
29.01.00 (Kumasi).....Algeria v Gabon
02.02.00 (Kumasi) .....Algeria v South Africa
02.02.00 (Accra) .....DR Congo v Gabon

GROUP C

23.01.00 (Kano) .....Egypt v Zambia
25.01.00 (Kano).....Burkina Faso v Senegal
28.01.00 (Kano) .....Egypt v Senegal
29.01.00 (Kano) .....Burkina Faso v Zambia
01.02.00 (Kano).....Burkina Faso v Egypt
01.02.00 (Lagos).....Senegal v Zambia

GROUP D

23.01.00 (Lagos) .....Nigeria v Tunisia
25.01.00 (Lagos).....Congo v Morocco
28.01.00 (Lagos).....Nigeria v Congo
29.01.00 (Lagos).....Morocco v Tunisia
03.02.00 (Lagos).....Nigeria v Morocco
03.02.00 (Kano) .....Congo v Tunisia

QUARTER-FINALS

06.02.00 (Accra).....
.....winner gp A v runner-up gp B
06.02.00 (Kumasi).....
.....winner gp B v runner-up gp A
07.02.00 (Kano).....
.....winner gp C v runner-up gp D
07.02.00 (Lagos) .....
.....winner gp D v runner-up gp C

SEMI-FINALS

10.02.00 (Accra).....
.....winner Accra v winner Kumasi
10.02.00 (Lagos) .....
.....winner Lagos v winner Kano

THIRD PLACE PLAY-OFF

12.02.00 (Accra)

FINAL

13.02.00 (Lagos)

A tale of two talents

Kuffour: Success from the start

Syerramia Willoughby on the Ghanaian defender who began winning young

EVEN the hardest anti-German heart could not have failed to feel a splinter of sympathy for Bayern Munich defender Samuel Osei Kuffour on that night last May when Manchester United staged their amazing recovery to pinch the European Cup from his team. He pounded the Barcelona pitch again and again in utter despair, and that loss still hurts today.

"I was very disappointed because I never thought it would happen that way, so late in the game," he says. "It was horrible for myself and my team-mates. But we had to accept it and I've put it behind me."

Kuffour, one of Europe's top central defenders, is a product of Ghana's brilliant Under-17 sides at the 1991 and 1993 World Championships, a tournament that has produced the likes of Arsenal's Emmanuel Petit and Nwankwo Kanu.

But in Africa, and certainly in Ghana, a youth wanting to pursue a career in sport is considered frivolous. Getting a good education is assumed to be the only way to find success in life.

"There wasn't any money in football in Ghana so nobody thought it was a good job to go into," says Kuffour. "But Tony Yeboah was playing in Leeds, Abedi Pele in France, and I thought I could make it too. What gave me real hope was that one of my Under-17 colleagues, Nii Lamptey, played for the Ghana Under-15s in Scotland and had been signed by Anderlecht. This gave me real confidence."

Kuffour decided very early on that he wanted to devote himself exclusively to football, and set out to achieve the goal in an unusual manner.

"When I was 13, I told my mum I didn't want to go school. I wanted to play football. Then I was invited to the national camp. I had no boots and there was no help from anywhere. But we had a small black and white television. My mum sold it to buy my boots.

"The team I was playing for won 2-0 and I scored one of the goals. Everyone got a bonus – I gave my mother half and she bought another TV for my sisters."

Kuffour was one of 100 players invited to the national camp before the World Under-17 Championship in 1991, and his hard work there was rewarded by selection to represent Ghana in the tournament proper, in Italy.

Ghana had never made a major impact on the championship, and it seemed unlikely that the 1991 squad would fare any better,

Early triumph...Nii Lamptey wins the 1991 Under-17 World title

Lamptey: Back from break point

REMEMBER Nii Lamptey – the kid so clever with a football that Pele told him he would be the greatest player of all time?

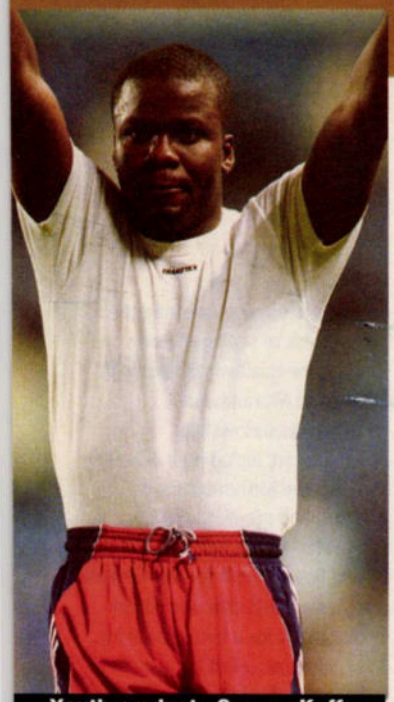
At the age of 14 he was smuggled out of his native Ghana in the boot of a taxi to head for guaranteed riches in Europe.

On the day he turned 16 Anderlecht put Lamptey in their first team and he scored twice. His goals then inspired Ghana to win the 1991 Under-17 World Championship and Adidas rewarded him with a record-breaking £50,000 boot deal.

Bobby Robson's verdict at the time was: "He will be enormous, he's pure talent." All the experts agreed – the kid simply could not fail. His manager at Anderlecht, the normally downbeat Aad De Mos, reckoned: "He's already better than Marco Van Basten and twice as good as Enzo Scifo."

So where is Nii Lamptey now? It's a good question – and the answer is a cautionary tale for every aspiring youngster in the money-mad world of modern football.

He is still only 24, the same age as David Beckham. But while the Manchester United midfielder has become one of the undisputed superstars of world football, Lamptey's name is familiar around the globe mostly to the travel agents who have arranged a largely anonymous sporting journey to 11



Youth product...Sammy Kuffour

particularly because they had played only six games together before the start of the event, with only moderate success.

Kuffour, however, said the squad had plenty of confidence going into the tournament. "We certainly thought we were capable of winning," he says. "We were determined to play well, because our coach, Otto Pfister, told us that if we did, there might be European clubs interested in us.

"When we won it was so amazing. We got to the airport and there were so many people there cheering us. None of us could find our parents."

Pfister certainly had not lied when he said opportunities would beckon for those who performed well, and Kuffour, along with Mohammed Gargo and Emmanuel Duah (who scored the only goal in the Final against Spain) were signed by Torino.

Kuffour was only 15 then and played mostly for the youth team. "It was quite a hard time at first living in a strange country without my parents, but Duah and Gargo were there with me and we cheered each other up."

In 1992, still only 15, Kuffour was called up to join Ghana's Olympic squad. "I didn't feel very comfortable with the seniors because I didn't know the players and they were so much older than me. So I asked the coach if I could go down to join my friends in the Under-17 team. But in 1994 I rejoined the senior team."

Another opportunity to shine had come in 1993, when Kuffour was selected to represent Ghana in both the Under-17 and the Under-20 World Championships. But they were pipped at the final post in both competitions, the former by Nigeria, the latter by Brazil.

European scouts on the prowl spotted the talent of young Sammy, however. "After those two championships, Bayern Munich approached me expressing an interest," he recalls. "I spoke to my mum and she said that if I thought Germany would be better for my football, then I should go ahead.

"My first coach here, Giovanni Trapattoni, encouraged me so much when I first came. To me, he is the best coach in the world. He has made me the player I am today."

The high regard Kuffour has for Trapattoni is reciprocated, as was shown by a recent attempt the Italian made to lure his former protege to Fiorentina. Bayern turned down the £12million bid.

Kuffour is one of a handful of Ghanaian players in top leagues in Europe. Despite this, the Ghana national team have failed to make any impact on the world stage. Kuffour says: "Every single time I go to join up with the team, there are new faces. We don't have the time to get accustomed to playing together as a unit.

"One reason why we were so successful at junior levels was because about nine players who won the Under-17 championship in Italy were in the team who reached the Under-20s Final in 1993. A team need to be settled, and time must be given to allow that team to gel so we can produce results."

Kuffour, named as the Bundesliga's Best Defender in the 1998-99 season, now has the challenge of inspiring Ghana, as hosts, to their first African Nations Cup triumph since 1982. He is already looking beyond that tournament to fulfil his international ambitions.

"It's very important to me that I carry my momentum to the next level and represent Ghana in the World Cup," he says. But for now, the Nations Cup awaits.

Jim Holden chronicles the rise and fall of a wonderboy

clubs in eight countries taking in four continents.

When I visited Lamptey at Anderlecht in the early 1990s he told me how he practised his sublime skills by using an orange instead of a football. You could believe it, too, as the boy from Ghana teased and tormented opponents in the Belgian League.

But along with the incredible talent came intense pressure from great expectations heaped upon young shoulders in an unfamiliar environment.

Several moves around Europe quickly followed as Lamptey, at times affected by injury, failed to deliver on his promise. His career fell apart and the search for success took him to PSV Eindhoven, Aston Villa, Coventry, Palermo, Venezia and Ankaragucu on the road to Santa Fe in Argentina.

There, earlier this year, Lamptey's new-born son Diego died at three months, of a lung infection. He had been named after the footballer's childhood hero, Diego Maradona, but Argentina was only a place to cry for Lamptey.

He quit South America, and after a short spell in Portugal with Union Leiria he has been attempting to rebuild his shattered life and career with obscure German Second Division club Sp Vgg Greuther Furth.

"Here I finally feel content again," says Lamptey. "And with God's help my football talent will return. That is all I ever wanted to do, to play football. I began as a seven-year-old and I played all day long.

"When I went to Europe it seemed like my dreams had been fulfilled. I met Pele, who watched me and said I would be the greatest player in the world if I worked hard. That's what I thought would happen, and I dreamed of winning the World Cup for Ghana and for Africa.

"But it was not so easy as it all seemed at the start. At the age of 16 I never thought about what was happening, the money and the talk. But today I know that it was too much. Looking back it was a curse on me.

"Now I don't think too far ahead, about taking part in major tournaments for Ghana. Just playing football is what I want."

At Greuther Furth, Lamptey has had a mixed start, being used mostly as a substitute. But there have been some outstanding performances, particularly in November against Mainz and Nurnberg before he sustained a minor leg injury.

Now, finally, Nii Lamptey feels there is realistic hope of fulfilling the extraordinary talent of his youth – while his nightmare tale should also serve as a warning to the brilliant young footballers who will be on display in the African Nations Cup over the next few weeks.

Over the next eight pages, Mark Gleeson previews the tournament group by group

Lions roar...but will Cameroon be celebrating in Lagos?

CAMEROON

Odds are again stacked against the Indomitable Lions

CAMEROON still have the charisma but have been without the old winning ways for some time now. It is 12 years since they last contested the Final of a Nations Cup tournament and 10 since the dramatic events of Italia 90.

But there is always an air of expectation surrounding the Indomitable Lions, who go to Ghana under the guidance of French coach Pierre Lechantre.

He was an assistant to compatriot Claude Le Roy at France 98, has been in charge for a year, and had the modest task of seeing the side through the qualifying group with Eritrea and Mozambique.

That was successfully accomplished, including a 6-1 away win over the Mozambicans in Maputo, and pre-Nations Cup preparations have involved a brief tour of France, with success in three matches against club opposition.

But plans for a longer training camp were cancelled because of a lack of cash, further evidence of the odds seemingly always stacked up against Cameroon's players.

This time it is because considerable receipts are frozen as FIFA attempts to sort out an administrative malaise in Cameroon's football federation.

The team, however, will enjoy considerable respect, as they always do. There is some fine individual talent to work with and an intriguing mix of youth and experience.

Goalkeeper Jacques Songo'o first played in a Nations Cup tournament in 1988, but has not appeared under Lechantre and might be left out in favour of Turkey-based Alioum Boukar or Boavista's Willem Andem, fresh from the UEFA Champions League.

The eccentric and often erratic Rigobert Song captains the side from defence, and much is expected of Geremi Njitap after his expensive move to Real Madrid. One of his midfield partners also is based in Spain – Lauren Mayer of Real Mallorca *(see profile, left)*.

Patrick Mboma and Joseph-Desire Job lead the attack, with back-up from burly Patrick Suffo.

Pius N'Diefi, who helped Sedan to promotion and a French Cup Final place last season, also is emerging as a candidate for his first cap.

The big plus, though, is the return of Marc-Vivien Foe, who had to sit out the World Cup finals in France and give up a potential move to Manchester United because of a broken leg. That has now healed, and Foe has been in brilliant form at West Ham United, just as he was when helping Lens to win the French title two years ago.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

LAUREN MAYER

IT IS somewhat ironic that Lauren Bisan Etama Mayer is better known to the scouts of Lazio, Roma, Real Madrid and Barcelona than in the country of his birth. But there is a good reason for that. The Cameroonian midfielder is one of the growing number of African players returning to connect with their roots after making the big time in Europe.

Mayer was born in Lohdji Kribi in Cameroon, but his family moved to a village near Seville in Spain when he was only three. He is a national of both countries and might well have won international recognition for Spain had he not elected to play for Cameroon just before France 98.

National coach, Claude Le Roy, gave the then 21-year-old his debut in a warm-up friendly in Luxembourg, then included him in his World Cup squad. At the finals, Mayer played a mere nine minutes as a late substitute in the controversial game against Chile, when the Indomitable Lions narrowly missed out on a berth in the second round. But he has stayed the course and featured in two Nations Cup qualifiers, against Mozambique and Eritrea.

There is now something of a Spanish clique in the Cameroon squad. "Samuel [Eto'o of Real Madrid] helped me integrate with the group," says Mayer. "I knew virtually nobody." Mayer has carved out a profile of his own in Spain, starting in the Second Division with Levante and now at Mallorca. Alongside another Ibero-African, Vincent Engonga, he was a regular last season as Mallorca reached the Final of the now defunct Cup-winners Cup.

This Nations Cup will be a further opportunity to enhance the reputation that had scouts from Spain's top teams and a handful of Serie A clubs seeking his signature in the off-season.

Fact file

Country Cameroon
Club Real Mallorca (Spa)
Born January 19, 1977, in Lohdji Kribi
Previous club Levante (Spa)
International debut May 1998, v Luxembourg
International caps 4

IVORY COAST

Time to deliver for Africa's nearly men

FOR ONE of Africa's most populous, economically stable and potentially successful nations, Ivory Coast have a disappointing record at the Nations Cup finals.

They have won the title once – in indisputably the most dramatic Final, when they edged out Ghana after 25 penalties in Dakar eight years ago – but for a country who will be making their 14th appearance at the finals (a record bettered only by Egypt), it is the source of some derision that the Elephants have not done better.

This time they are in a difficult opening group. But coach Martin Gboke Tia has a side as competent as any the Ivorians have taken to past Nations Cup finals. Firstly there is goalkeeper Alain Gouamene, who will be breaking the Nations Cup record by making a seventh finals tournament appearance. Then there is striker Joel Tiehi, now nearing the end of his playing days.

Both are vastly experienced and are the only survivors from the 1992 winning side. Their places, however, are under threat from a new generation. Up front, Tiehi is likely to be overshadowed by Ibrahima Bakayoko and Bonaventure Kalou, while Gouamene has a posse of young keepers itching for the No 1 jersey.

Matched...Ivory Coast-Cameroon

Bakayoko and Kalou are the main hopes for the Ivorians and an upturn in form for both in recent months will give the side some heart.

Aruna Dindane, the teenage star of ASEC Abidjan, also is expected to make the squad after finishing as the leading goalscorer in the Ivorian League last year.

Injury makes Inter's Cyril Domoraud a doubtful participant, but younger brother Gilles, already with one cap to his name, could be included in the squad.

The Ivorians will also bring a strong foreign legion, including Italy-based Saliou Lassisi, Lassina Diabate from Bordeaux, Belgium-based Patrice Zere, and Celtic's Oliver Tebily.

GHANA

Co-hosts aim to prove there's life after Abedi

GHANA share the proudest record in the Nations Cup finals. But the last of their four titles came way back in 1982 and although the years since then have been the most productive for Ghanaian football, they have failed to deliver the most sought-after piece of silverware.

The junior sides, as well as the individual brilliance of the likes of Abedi Pele and Tony Yeboah, have kept Ghana in the spotlight, but the trophies have eluded the Black Stars.

Now with their nation co-hosting the finals, the new-look senior team carries a massive burden of expectation, fuelled by a revival over the last 15 months under Italian coach Guiseppe Dossena.

He knows a thing or two about winning, as his World Cup experience will testify, and seems to have conquered many of the demons and irritations that often appear to wear down ambitious European coaches working in Africa.

Last time...Togo-Ghana, 1998

The ability to make consistent team selections has greatly helped Dossena's cause. This has not been possible in previous years because of limited resources for bringing over key Europe-based players, or administrative inefficiency.

Ghana have benefited in one respect from the fact that the era of Abedi Pele and Yeboah has now passed – namely that their personal feuding no longer is a danger to morale within the camp.

Charles Akonnor is the new leader of the Black Stars, and though nothing like as charismatic as Pele or Yeboah, is able to command respect from the many youngsters breaking through into the side.

The real inspiration will be Samuel Kuffour, who has grown into a world-class defender at Bayern Munich. Two other members of the side who won the Under-17 World Championship in Italy in 1991 also will play important roles: striker Yaw Preko, cursed by injury during the last two Nations Cup finals, and Udinese's Mohamed Gargo.

Preko's partner up front is likely to come from Kwame Ayew (Sporting Lisbon), Augustine Ahinful (Boavista) and Peter Ofori-Quaye (Olympiakos).

Alex Nyarko is a midfield pillar, while the tough tackling of Samuel Johnson is another integral part of the strong physical approach found in all Ghana's teams.

Christian Gyan, Stephen Baidoo and Mark Edusei are all defensive regulars and Bundesliga-based Otto Addo should break through into the team during the tournament. Ghana also will be keen to see the return of Eric Addo, whose start to his new club career at PSV Eindhoven has been delayed by injury.

There are just too many classy players for Ghana not to be among the major contenders. But they have let themselves down all too frequently, and for the current generation, a winning Nations Cup performance is something from the distant past.

TOGO

Whipping boys look to save face

TOGO, the tiny country sandwiched with Benin between Ghana and Nigeria, do not appear to have the potential to be anything other than the group whipping boys.

They will point to the fact that they beat Ghana in the group stage in Ouagadougou two years ago in one of the great Nations Cup upsets, but that is the only victory they have recorded in four finals appearances.

Togo's big hope is Eintracht Frankfurt striker Bachirou Salou. However, he has ignored international call-ups since the last finals because of his unhappiness at the home fans, who have singled him out following some mediocre performances in Lome.

German coach Gottlieb Goller is back at the helm after being fired at the end of 1996, and although Togo managed only one win in 10 matches in 1999 they qualified ahead of Guinea thanks to a better goal difference and because there were only three teams chasing two qualifying places.

Koffi Fiawoo, who missed the last finals through injury, is likely to return from Sochaux in France, and Switzerland-based midfielder Tadjou Salou also is likely to play.

SOUTH AFRICA

Bafana Bafana are confident despite the absentees

SOUTH AFRICA have reached the deciding match in both of their appearances at the Nations Cup finals, winning the tournament on home soil in 1996 and finishing runners-up to Egypt two years later in Burkina Faso.

Such is their confidence of a third successive Final appearance that coach Trott Moloto was the first of the managers to name his 22-man squad, almost a full month before the January 10 deadline.

Bafana Bafana, however, will be far from full strength. There are two major missing ingredients, both from the front line.

First, Benni McCarthy, who was the player of the tournament at the 1998 finals and scored seven goals, 'retired' from international soccer in September. He said he was unwilling to keep up with the demands of trying to win a place in the first team at Celta Vigo in Spain at the same time as returning to Africa to fulfil commitments with both the senior national side and the Under-23s, seeking a place at the Sydney Olympics later this year.

Then striker Phil Masinga suffered a serious knee injury while training with his Italian club, Bari, in December, and was forced to have an operation that probably will keep him out for the rest of the season.

This means that the responsibility to score the goals will now rest with Shaun Bartlett of FC Zurich and Turkey-based striker Pollen Ndlanya (*see profile, right*).

Lucas Radebe, John Moshoeu and Mark Fish all return for a third successive Nations Cup finals, though it probably will be the last for 34-year-old Moshoeu. The Fenerbahce midfielder is a brilliant playmaker on his day and has not received the recognition he should have had on the African stage.

That is also the case with Radebe, well known in England as captain of Premiership title chasers Leeds United.

Show of strength...South Africa's Pierre Issa (left)

South Africa will play Radebe and Fish at the back along with Pierre Issa, from troubled Marseille, and look for penetration wide from the likes of Helman Mkhalele, also appearing at a third successive finals, and Manchester United reserve Quinton Fortune.

Germany-based Delron Buckley and Bradley Carnell also are competent in this department, but both were surprisingly left out by Moloto.

Of the four seeds, South Africa certainly got the softest draw and should stroll into the quarter-finals. From then on it will become a lot tougher, but there will be every confidence that the team will be able to go all the way.

ALGERIA

Chance to rejoin the party for war-torn former champions

TEN years have passed since Algeria collected the Nations Cup trophy after beating Nigeria 1-0 in the 1990 Final in Algiers. In the intervening period there has been unprecedented turmoil in the country, where football has reached a low ebb.

A civil war between Islamic militants and the government has taken its toll on soccer, with leading football administrators among those assassinated in recent years.

At the last Nations Cup, in Burkina Faso, Algeria did not win a game, and they were far from convincing in qualifying for the 2000 edition. Six coaches have been at the helm in just over a year, the latest being a shock appointment. Nasser Sandjak, born in Paris of Algerian immigrant parents and coach of French regional side Noisy le Sec, has been handed the task of leading the Fenecs at the finals.

Sandjak's brother, Liazid, was an Algerian international, but the new coach comes with almost no credentials. He might be a breath of fresh air, though, in a coaching world fraught with political intrigue. The much-capped ex-Algeria player Rabah Madjer was originally going to take over the side but walked out on the job without a match under his belt. He quit in dramatic style, live on TV, accusing government officials of going back on contract promises.

Algeria then sought to bring in Croat Josip Skoblar, but that did not sit too well with the locals and he, too, departed.

Sandjak already has had a double blow in his build-up. Promising Marseille player Djamel Belmadi has turned down a call-up, while Paris Saint-Germain's captain Ali Benarbia also refused to play.

Moussa Saib, who was in the 1990 winning team, will be on board as captain, despite the death of his career at Tottenham Hotspur. "Since I've taken over I've spoken to him and realised his quality as captain of the team," said Sandjak. "He has my confidence."

Saib, therefore, will be making his fifth African Nations Cup finals appearance.

Sandjak had the team in training at Annaba over New Year and then took them to Brazil for 12 days, during which they played Vasco da Gama. They were due to conclude their training in Ivory Coast before crossing the border to Ghana.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Administrative chaos overshadows preparations

THE WOEFUL way that football is run in the Democratic Republic of Congo always puts their national team at a disadvantage before a tournament of this size.

The players are wholly reliant on government benevolence, and preparations have to be put on hold until the sports ministry deems that the time is right to hand over the necessary cash.

The ensuing chaos is now a trademark of the former Zaire, a country of great footballing potential betrayed by individual greed for power and position.

A measure of that potential was displayed in Burkina Faso two years ago when DR Congo took South Africa to extra time in the semi-finals and went on to win third place. The country also has won the Nations Cup twice, although the second of these was more than 25 years ago.

Already two planned training

tours have been cancelled, and all coach Lusadisu Basilwa has to show so far is a handful of friendly matches against neighbouring Congo. Even these were played without any of the players based abroad, who are the Simbas' main hope.

Basilwa was on the coaching staff for the last two finals, taking over for two games in the 1996 edition when Turkish coach Mushin Ertugal walked out on the side in an argument over who picked the team – him or the sports minister.

Then Basilwa was assistant to Louis Watunda in Burkina Faso in 1998 and took over from him early last year.

The side's line-up changed dramatically from match to match during the qualifiers, largely because there was not enough money to fly back all the expatriate players at the same time. This meant that appearances had to be shared around among the foreign legion.

Elos Ekakia, who plays with Anderlecht and has the highest profile of any Congolese in former colonial power Belgium, has said he will not be going to Ghana, and misses a third successive tournament.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

POLLEN NDLANYA

POLLEN NDLANYA will be in the shop window during the African Nations Cup finals, his career in Turkey having ended in disappointment for a second time. It is a perfect stage for the forward, who holds South Africa's attacking hopes in the absence of both Phil Masinga and Benni McCarthy.

Ndlanya is a powerful target man, who has the strength to hold off defenders and lay off the ball. He is also a goalscorer of repute and led South Africa's scoring charts in 1996-97 before he left for Bursaspor in Turkey.

After an unsuccessful six-month period, Ndlanya returned to Kaizer Chiefs last season on loan. His campaign was crowned by taking a Cup medal and winning the Footballer of the Year award.

Chiefs did not want to continue paying his high wages, so Ndlanya went back to Turkey, this time with Goztepe. But it has been another frustrating period and he is now seeking a contract elsewhere in Europe.

Ndlanya hails from Daveyton, just outside Johannesburg, and first played for Kaizer Chiefs before going on loan to Durban club Manning Rangers, where his profile increased considerably. Coach Clive Barker called him up to the South Africa squad during the France 98 qualifiers, but he appeared for only five minutes, away to Zambia.

It was at the Confederations Cup almost a year later that Ndlanya staked his claim for a regular place, scoring his first international goals in the 4-3 defeat by Uruguay. Barker's replacement, Jomo Sono, picked Ndlanya for the 1998 Nations Cup, where he earned rave reviews, but Sono's successor, Philippe Troussier, chose to ignore him for France 98. Now, with Trott Moloto at the helm, Ndlanya is back and has the chance to make an even bigger name for himself.

Fact file

Country South Africa
Club Goztepe (Tur)
Born May 22, 1970, in Daveyton
Previous clubs Kaizer Chiefs, Manning Rangers, Bursaspor (Tur)
International debut January 1997, v Zambia
International caps 22 (4 goals)
Honours Rothmans Cup 1998; South African Footballer of the Year 1999

We meet again...Gabon v S Africa

Belgium-based players who will appear include Nzelo Lembi of Club Brugge and veteran Ngoy Nsumbu of Genk. A question mark hangs over Dandou Selenge, who was DR Congo's best player in Burkina Faso but is now in the reserves at Charleroi.

GABON

Brazilian influence may not be enough

GABON are not expected to offer much in the way of winning potential at the Nations Cup, but the draw has been kind and they have a realistic chance of finishing in the top two, thereby qualifying for the quarter-finals.

Under Brazilian coach Antonio Dumas, the oil-rich central African country finished second behind South Africa in their qualifying group and again have been drawn with Bafana Bafana. But though Gabon are not short on cash, the country's potential is restricted by its small population.

In preparation for the finals, the 'Azingo Nationale' have trained in Brazil and played an unusually high number of friendlies. This is only the third time that Gabon have qualified for the tournament, but they were one of the delights of the 1996 edition, when they reached the quarter-finals.

The majority of Gabon's squad will come from local clubs but there also are internationals based in France, Morocco, Portugal and Tunisia. Striker Theodore Nzue Nguema was the leading scorer in the qualifiers, with six goals in eight matches.

Midfield kingpin Dieudonne Londo has been injured and missed Raja Casablanca's march on the African Champions League title in December, but Jonas Ogandaga is as effective a playmaker.

The defence is marshalled by Guy-Roger Nzeng, who plays for Orlando Pirates in South Africa.

Captain Francois Amegasse is also a stalwart and has been an international for almost 17 years. Had Gabon's administrators kept proper records of their international caps, he surely would have been a member of the century club by now.

The newer generation includes Tunisia-based striker Yves Nzaboutamba and winger Armand Ossey, who recently transferred from Cretiel in France to Portugal.

Gabon will have ambitions of a place in the last eight, with the game against DR Congo probably the key to their chances.

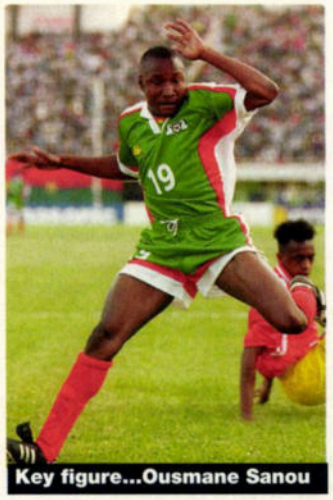
BURKINA FASO

Stallions can give backers a good run for their money

BURKINA FASO have emerged in the past five years as a factor to be reckoned with on the African scene. They will be making their third successive appearance in the Nations Cup finals and the 'land of upright men' are no longer mere journeymen on the continental circuit.

Burkina Faso hosted the most recent finals, two years ago, when the Etalons (Stallions) achieved their best-ever finish by reaching the semi-finals, even without any players from Europe's top divisions in their squad.

The team, playing under eccentric French coach Philippe Troussier, also contributed to one of the most remarkable matches seen in the Nations Cup. Burkina were leading 4-1 against DR Congo in the third-place play-off with less than 10 minutes to go, then conceded three goals in as many minutes and were deprived of the bronze medal in the ensuing penalty shoot-out.


Key figure...Ousmane Sanou

Those defensive frailties will again come under scrutiny, but at least Burkina have a relatively open group in Kano.

The team go to the finals under 53-year-old Belgian coach Rene Taelman, who was appointed in September on a one-year contract.

He has extensive club experience in Africa, having worked in Ivory Coast, Zaire, Guinea and Morocco, but this is his first time in charge of a national team.

Taelman took over from the Frenchman Didier Notheaux, who was sacked, rather surprisingly, after ensuring Burkina's qualification. They came through their group unbeaten, although it was weakened after Nigeria dropped out having been promoted to co-hosts.

Two key players to watch are Holland-based Mamadou Zongo of Vitesse *(see profile, below)* and Ousmane Sanou (Willem II). Zongo, the *wunderkind* of Burkinabe football, missed the last Nations Cup ostensibly because of injury but also because of a fall-out with Troussier. Sanou did not play in any of the qualifiers for the 2000 finals but is expected to receive a call-up.

Seydou Traore, who plays on either flank, was chosen as the Asian Footballer of the Year in 1998 for his performances in the United Arab Emirates with Al Ain. He is back for a third successive Nations Cup appearance and is another on which to keep an eye.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

MAMADOU ZONGO

MUCH HAS happened in a short time for Mamadou Zongo since he made his international debut for Burkina Faso at 16. He is still well short of his 20th birthday, but having moved from the dusty streets of Burkina Faso's second city, Bobo-Dioulasso, to play for ASEC Abidjan in neighbouring Ivory Coast, Zongo now appears for Vitesse Arnhem in Holland.

He is one of 22 children, his father having four wives, and his half-brother, Boureima, is a full international, too. Zongo first played for his local side, Racing Club Bobo-Dioulasso, at 15, and was a regular first-teamer almost from the outset, scoring 22 goals in his first season. That earned him the move to ASEC, arguably the biggest team in West Africa. Zongo ended the 1997 season as League top scorer with 18 goals, and helped ASEC to another championship.

"I could have gone to Sion in Switzerland, but ASEC have a good youth programme and use many of the methods of European clubs. It was a good step in between for me," says Zongo, whose next move was to Europe, and Vitesse.

Burkina Faso hosted the 1998 Nations Cup finals, but coach Philippe Troussier was unwilling to take a chance on Zongo after an injury in the build-up, and he failed to make the squad. But he was back for the 2000 qualifying campaign and scored several goals as his country reached a third successive tournament.

This is Zongo's first and his form is vital to the Burkinabe's hopes of making the quarter-finals. "I haven't reached my full capabilities," he says. "I can still be 30 to 40 per cent better." His country hopes that jump is made during the finals.

Fact file

Country Burkina Faso
Club Vitesse Arnhem (Hol)
Born October 8, 1980, in Bobo-Dioulasso
Previous clubs Racing Club Bobo-Dioulasso, ASEC Abidjan (IvC)
International debut October 1996, v Gabon
International caps 15 (7 goals)
Honours Ivorian League 1997

EGYPT

Defending champions hampered by a crisis of confidence

THE FORTUNES of defending champions Egypt have taken a turn for the worse since that boiling hot afternoon in February 1998, when they held aloft the 'African Unity' trophy after beating South Africa 2-0 in the last Nations Cup Final.

That was a record-equalling fourth win for the Pharaohs, confirming the dominant role that they have enjoyed in the continent's football.

But two years later there is a crisis of confidence as the Egyptians attempt a defence of their title. Not much has changed in terms of the team's personnel, but one spectacular result has sent the world crashing around their ears.

It came in Mexico last August, at the Confederations Cup. Egypt lost 5-1 to Saudi Arabia and had three players sent off in a disastrous performance that even led to state president Hosni Mubarak expressing his displeasure on TV.

Out went the entire Egyptian federation's executive as well as the veteran and legendary coach Mahmoud Al-Gohari, now castigated for having lost to fellow Arabs.

Al-Gohari had taken Egypt to Italia 90, and then gone back into the job before the tournament in Burkina Faso at the behest of the nation.

Results, and not sentiment, matter in Egypt and the mood of the country

ebbs and flows with the achievements of the national team. The mammoth task of ensuring success now falls to 47-year-old Frenchman Gerard Gili, who took Marseille to the French title for three successive seasons from 1989.

Gili has been in the job since November, but for his first two matches, friendlies against Ghana and Namibia, he left the team selection to Anouar Salama, who had been in a caretaker role since Al-Gohari's dismissal.

"The federation assures me that the Nations Cup is not as important as getting to the World Cup finals," says Gili. "It's my feeling that the Nations Cup will give us a chance to experiment with the team and work on the spirit of the camp. But it doesn't mean we won't be going for the title and defending our honour."

That could be music to the ears of the other teams in Group C.

Floored...Egypt v Saudi Arabia

ZAMBIA

Bamfuchile's boys look to wipe out bad memories

ZAMBIA will have high hopes of going past the first round in Nigeria, despite the fact that in Burkina Faso two years ago they left at the group stage after a disastrous 4-0 thumping by Egypt.

The blame for that performance was laid at the door of German coach Burkhard Ziese, whose eccentric, disciplinarian style almost led to a player revolt.

The man in charge now is Ben Bamfuchile, a former international who has the confidence of the squad. Bamfuchile took over from Fighton Simukonda last February and led Zambia to the best performance of all the 13 teams that had to qualify for the finals. They dropped only two points and won five straight games in their qualifying group, including a very difficult away victory against DR Congo in Kinshasa.

Bamfuchile, forced to rely for all but the most important games on home-based players because of the financial constraints facing the FA, has created a new look to his team.

Captain Elijah Litana has played only twice for Zambia in the past 18 months, while Kalusha Bwalya retired from international soccer after the tournament in Burkina Faso.

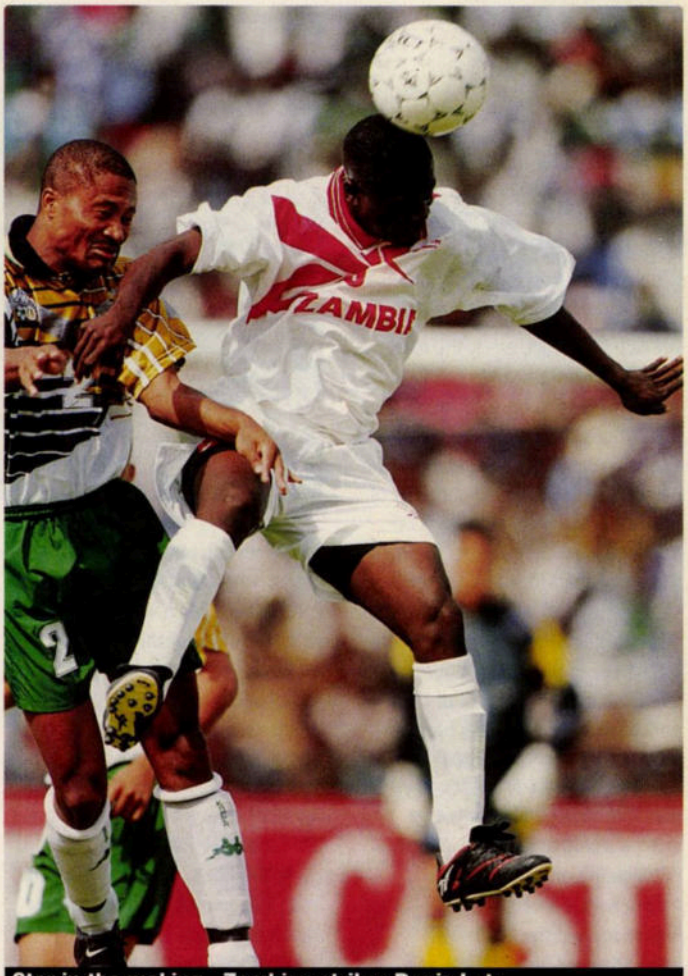
There is now talk of a return for the Mexico-based veteran, though he still seems to be hedging his bets ahead of the tournament. Bwalya was bitter about the criticism he received from home after Zambia's early exit in 1998, and has been sceptical about a return.

Another comeback in the offing is that of Kenneth Malitoli, a very experienced player who brings a solid presence to the midfield and can play up front. His elder brother, Mordon, now playing in Finland, was a surprise inclusion among the defenders in the preliminary squad announced in November.

Both were in the side that finished runners-up to Nigeria in Tunisia in 1994. But Bamfuchile will be looking more to younger players when Zambia tackle their three group opponents.

Most of the squad were in the Under-23 team that went so close to winning gold at the All-Africa Games in Johannesburg in September.

The captain of that team, Moses Sichone, recently went to Germany to play for FC Koln and is a big star in the making. Another is striker Denis Lota, who plays for Orlando Pirates in South Africa.



Star in the making...Zambian striker Denis Lota

SENEGAL

Youthful Lions back in the big time

SENEGAL are back at the Nations Cup for the first time since 1994, having won the special play-off group that was created to offer a consolation to Zimbabwe after they had been stripped of the right to host the 2000 finals.

Senegal finished behind Burkina Faso in their initial qualifying group and had to go into the play-off with the Zimbabweans and the minnows of Eritrea. Only by scoring more goals against the latter did the Lions edge past Zimbabwe on goal difference to book their berth in the finals.

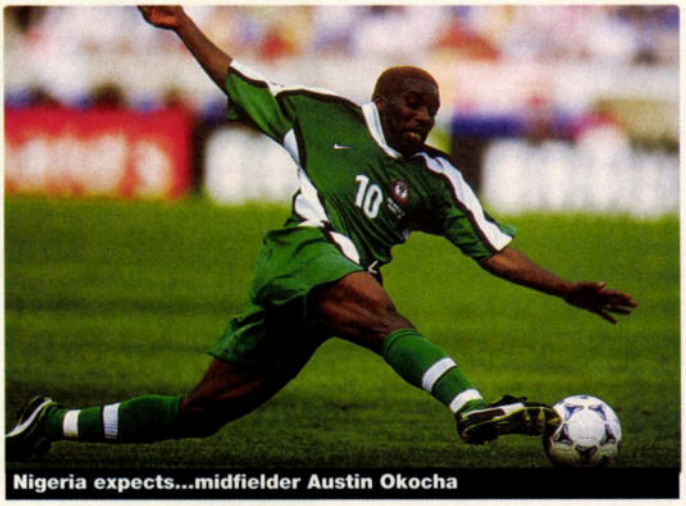
Wily German coach Peter Schnittger has been working on a development programme in Senegal since 1995, and qualification for the finals is a result of those efforts.

"Despite its youth, the team has reached great heights," says Schnittger, who has been coaching in Africa since 1968. "We play well, work hard and score goals."

Schnittger's general on the pitch is Malick Diop, a regular with Strasbourg in France. Other key components include Salif Keita, now playing in the German Second Division with Hannover, Pape Niokhar Fall and Henri Camara, who has just moved to Neuchatel Xamax in Switzerland.

Federation president Oumar Seck has been touring Europe seeking Senegalese players to reinforce the side, notably Pape Sarr of Saint-Etienne, Ferdinand Coly at Rennes, and Club Brugge's Khalilou Fadiga.

Fadiga is unlikely to heed the call, having recently married a Belgian girl and waiting now for his citizenship. His hope is to be naturalised in time for Euro 2000, but if Belgium coach Robert Waseige hints that he will not need him, then Fadiga might still throw his lot in with Senegal Lions.


Nigeria expects...midfielder Austin Okocha

NIGERIA

Super Eagles return, looking to rule the roost

AN ALL-STAR cast, easily the most expensive ever assembled, will represent Nigeria on their return to the Nations Cup finals. The likes of Austin Okocha, Victor Ikpeba and the newly-crowned African Footballer of the Year, Nwankwo Kanu, will be seeking to return the Super Eagles to the top of the African soccer perch.

Nigeria have been absent for the last two tournaments. They withdrew on the eve of the 1996 edition in South Africa at the behest of then military dictator Sani Abacha, who was peeved at criticism from Nelson Mandela after the execution of writer Ken Saro Wiwa and seven other internal dissidents.

Nigeria's absence left the tournament with diminished legitimacy and the 1998 finals were again devalued by the non-appearance of the Super Eagles.

The Confederation of African Football had imposed a two-tournament ban on Nigeria following their withdrawal in 1996, though they later reduced it to one, no doubt aware of the added attraction the flamboyant Nigerians give to the finals.

Dutchman Jo Bonfrere is returning, too. He was the coach when Nigeria won gold at the 1996 Olympics, resigned soon afterwards because he had not been paid, and went to the Middle East, but he has been enticed back, albeit with only a month to work on the team before they kick off in Lagos.

"Things have changed for the better," says Bonfrere. "There is now democracy in the country, the football association is better organised and the coaches that followed me [Philippe Troussier, Bora Milutinovic and Thijs Libregts] have built up the football."

But the biggest draw has been the players. "Every now and then, I'd get a call and they'd say: 'Coach, under you we played football.' That gives you pride. These are players who are at top clubs in Europe, and they have dealt with all sorts of top coaches."

But for all the adulation, Bonfrere is well aware that winning is all that counts, and what the nation expects.

He moved quickly to get the show on the road, naming a preliminary squad of 29 and then organising a Christmas training camp in Spain.

At the finals, Kanu will lead the front-line, probably with Jonathan Akpoborie, while Finidi George, Ikpeba and Tijani Babangida provide exciting options out wide.

The midfield is the preserve of the mercurially brilliant Okocha, with Sunday Oliseh possibly being used as sweeper, as he was at Ajax, to cover for Uche Okechukwu, the giant and much under-rated Fenerbahce centre-back who has broken a leg and will not make the trip home.

Taribo West, Celestine Babayaro and Godwin Okpara also should make the starting line-up, while Ike Shorounmu returns to goal after the disappointment of breaking an arm just before France 98.

TUNISIA

Club form points to international success

TUNISIA had considerable club success in 1999 and the national team will be hoping to emulate it at the Nations Cup.

Esperance, Club Africain and Etoile Sahel all reached the final of the three continental club competitions, and though only Sahel won their decider, the achievement still indicated the ability at the disposal of the national squad.

Tunisia go into their fourth successive Nations Cup finals with a stable team, which is now coached by an Italian, Francesco Scoglio. They breezed through their qualifying campaign and became the first side to book their place in Ghana and Nigeria apart from the hosts and holders.

Central to Tunisia's hopes are midfielder Hassen Gabsi, who was a revelation in Burkina Faso, and striker Adel Sellimi, the leading scorer in the Bundesliga at this season's winter break. Gabsi has bounced back from a long-term injury while Sellimi seems to have found a niche after frustrating times in Spain and France.

At the back, Mounir Boukadida is one of the toughest defenders in African football, Tarek Thabet offers experience, while Chokri El Ouaer is an accomplished if somewhat over-rated goalkeeper.

Experienced...Tarek Thabet

Zoubier Beya and Mehdi Ben Slimane, who have lost form or suffered injury playing at Freiburg in Germany, could return to play significant roles in the side.

Raouf Bouzaiane, who played for Laval in France, is in line for a recall for the first time since the 1994 Nations Cup finals, when Tunisia were hosts and were knocked out in the first round. Veteran striker Faouzi Rouissi also took part in that disastrous exercise but is still in contention this time round.

Most of the players will be drawn from Esperance, the country's champions, but there are now more Tunisians playing in Europe than ever.

To prepare for the tournament Tunisia won away to the UAE and beat Zambia and Ghana at home. They also played Internazionale at San Siro and had a home match with Ajax, who spent their winter break on the Tunisian coast.

CONGO

Red Devils have little hope of salvation

BY RIGHTS, Congo should not be at the Nations Cup finals given the gravity of the situation in the central African country. Civil war has left it economically paralysed, while the main stadium in Brazzaville has been closed for almost five years.

Despite all these setbacks, Congo qualified with some ease, which is testament to the wealth of talent in the country.

Two men based in Germany are particularly important to Congo's cause – 22-year-old Rolf-Christel Guie-Mien, a busy midfielder who plays for Eintracht Frankfurt, and Macchembes Younga, who will be the striking king pin. Younga's likely partner will be veteran Richard Akiana.

On the coaching front, Congo have David Memy back at the helm for a second spell. He returned to the job last year after the Red Devils lost to Ivory Coast in the Nations Cup qualifiers.

Goalkeeper Brice Samba and defenders Maurice Ntounou and Florent Baloki were in the squad for Congo's last Nations Cup finals appearance, in 1992, and they also are likely to feature this time round.

Ntounou is one of several squad members who play in the regional league in France, where Memy has been to watch potential charges in action. Ntounou plays at Pacy in the National League along with compatriots Lionel Kouakoua and Roland Loubacky.

The country's makeshift, home-based team had success in a four-nation tournament in Libreville, Gabon, at the end of November, beating Togo 2-1 in the Final. They also had had invaluable practice during a five-nation central African tournament, also in Gabon, a few weeks earlier.

The Red Devils qualified for the finals behind Ivory Coast by seeing off a strong challenge from Mali. But though they have won the trophy, back in 1972 in the era of Noel Minga, Francois M'Pele and Paul Moukila, those days are long gone. Given the tough nature of their group, the best the Devils can hope for is a point or two.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

GARBA LAWAL

WITH Nigeria's Europe-based stars likely to attract the most attention at the Nations Cup, the likes of Garba Lawal will be left to toil quietly in the background. Not that he lacks a considerable pedigree, having been a regular at France 98 and a consistent performer in Holland with Roda.

This will be his first foray at the Nations Cup finals, where his supporting role will be vital for the likes of Austin Okocha and Finidi George.

Lawal, born in Kaduna, started his professional career at Julius Berger, one of Nigeria's more successful club sides over the past decade, and played for the national side at junior level. In 1994 he moved to Esperance of Tunisia, where he won four medals, including two successive championships and a Champions Cup.

He went to Holland as a triallist at Utrecht, but it was Roda who signed him, in the 1996-97 season. He won a first-team place almost immediately and has been a regular ever since. "His whole attitude is perfect. At our club he is held up as the example to all," says Roda coach Nol Hendricks.

Lawal is one of seven children and a former accountancy student, whose academic ambitions gave way to football. "I don't plan anything for my career, it is all in the hands of God," he says. "I just want to do my best. From that, the prizes come by themselves. I have won an Olympic gold and been to the World Cup. That is already a lot for a 25-year-old footballer."

Fact file

Country Nigeria
Club Roda JC (Hol)
Born May 22, 1974, in Kaduna
Previous clubs Shooting Stars Ade, Julius Berger, Esperance (Tun) **International debut** January 1997, v Kenya
International caps 11 (2 goals)
Honours Olympic Games gold 1996; African Champions Cup 1995 (Esperance); Tunisian League 1994, 1995; Tunisian Cup 1996; Dutch Cup 1997

MOROCCO

Consistent challengers could go all the way

MOROCCO were the favourites ahead of the last finals in Burkina Faso and will be one of the fancied teams in Ghana and Nigeria, too. They lost to South Africa in the quarter-finals two years ago and have been grouped in a tough opening round this time.

They do, however, have enough ammunition to go all the way. Consistency has been the key word for Morocco ever since Henri Michel took over as coach in late 1995. He has slowly and carefully identified key players and then moulded them together into an effective unit.

Signs of that potential were on display at the 1998 World Cup finals in France, where Morocco were desperately unlucky not to go into the second round.

Main man...Mustapha Hadji

The national team qualified unbeaten for this Nations Cup, albeit from a less-than-taxing group, and have had just one hiccup recently, a 4-0 beating by Belgium in a friendly.

Mustapha Hadji, who was the African Footballer of the Year in 1998, heads a quality squad that is strong in midfield and in defence. His Coventry City team-mate, Youssef Chippo, will be at the finals, too, as will classy Said Chiba, who moved from Spain in the off-season to join struggling Nancy in France.

In defence, Spain-based libero Noureddine Naybet is nearing 100 caps and captains the team. Other first-teamers include wing-back Lahcen Abrami, Benfica's Taher El Khalej, and Abdelilah Saber of Sporting Lisbon.

But Morocco have traditionally lacked firepower, and are still seeking a player who can score consistently. Salaheddine Bassir of Deportivo La Coruna has done well for them over the years but suffered an injury in the first game of the last Nations Cup and was ruled out of the rest of the tournament, probably costing them success. Bassir now is struggling for a place at his club.

Goalkeeping, too, has been a weak point, though Michel has discovered Khalid Fouhami of Dinamo Bucharest in Romania and kept faith with him for more than a year now.

For all their regular appearances on the World Cup stage, Morocco have won the Nations Cup only once, in 1976. A win this time would not only confirm their potential but also help their campaign to host the World Cup finals in 2006.

The men who matter

UEFA EURO 2000
Belgium · The Netherlands

The European Championship kicks off in Holland and Belgium in June. In each issue from now until then we will be setting the scene for the tournament, focusing on the likely key players and rounding up the latest news of the competing nations

Marc Wilmots

The captain of co-hosts Belgium is on a roll, writes Keir Radnedge

ANY FEARS that Marc Wilmots would struggle to hold down a first-team place after Robert Waseige replaced Georges Leekens as coach of Belgium late last summer have been well and truly quashed.

Indeed, the big attacking midfielder has reassumed the captaincy he lost to Lorenzo Staelens last year, when Belgium suffered a disastrous run of results in the series of 'soft' friendlies that had been intended to build morale, confidence and team spirit ahead of Euro 2000.

Wilmots has also been scoring again, hitting three in the four friendlies he played in during the second half of 1999. This form has coincided with the resurgence of Belgium, who in the four games under Waseige to date have beaten Morocco at home (4-0), Italy away (3-1), drawn in Rotterdam with Euro 2000 co-hosts Holland (5-5) and lost 2-1 to England in Sunderland.

Wilmots, nicknamed the Wild Boar, began his career as an 11-year-old with his local home-town sports club of Jodoigne. At 16 he was discovered by top division club St Truiden, who subsequently offered him professional terms before he started to earn a fledgling reputation with former Cup-winners Cup holders Mechelen.

At that time Wilmots was a rangy, sometimes clumsy, striker, but his potential was impressive enough to earn a national team debut at the age of 21 in a 2-2 draw at home to Romania in May 1990, on the eve of the World Cup finals in Italy. Wilmots played well enough in that game, and as a second-half substitute in a 3-0 win over Mexico a week later, to earn a place in the World Cup squad.

Once Belgium reached Italy, however, he was relegated to the substitutes' bench and stayed there as Belgium qualified from their first-round group but then lost dramatically to England in the second round – a last-minute David Platt goal in Bologna deciding a duel which appeared destined to end in a penalty shoot-out.

The following season, 1990-91, saw Wilmots establish himself as a regular in the national team while his club game went from strength to strength as Mechelen finished runners-up in both League (to Anderlecht) and Cup (to Club Brugge). Wilmots' reward was a lucrative transfer to Standard Liege.

He stayed five years at the Stade Sclessin, his own reputation rising above the disappointment of seeing Belgium fail to qualify for the finals of the European Championship in 1992 and 1996. At least Wilmots did savour a first appearance in the World Cup finals, featuring once at USA 94, which Belgium exited in the second round after a controversial defeat by Germany in Chicago.

Ironically, within weeks of returning from the United States, Wilmots was off to Germany having

Goals from nowhere...Acimovic

Milenko Acimovic

Nick Bidwell on Slovenia's super-sub

SLOVENIA'S Milenko Acimovic has a priceless knack of pulling all-important goals out of the hat when brought on as substitute; the likelihood is that the attacking midfielder will continue to be used in a similar role for his young nation's major international tournament bow at Euro 2000.

Acimovic, a lean and elegant 22-year-old schemer who joined Red Star Belgrade from Olimpia Ljubljana in December 1997, has had a quasi-permanent relationship with the national team bench since making his international debut in a 3-1 friendly defeat by the Czech Republic in April 1998. Indeed, with national coach Srecko Katanec usually preferring Zlatko Zahovic, Djoni Novak and Mladen Rudonja as his advanced midfield trio, Acimovic, now 22, has started only three of the 16 internationals in which he has appeared.

However, that has not stopped him becoming a local hero on the road to Euro 2000. He has twice emerged as a second-half super-sub. In the 2-1 home win against Georgia last September, it was Acimovic who broke the deadlock just two minutes

Hooligan fears...Wilmots

been bought by Schalke. The famous old club from the Ruhr town of Gelsenkirchen had won only one League championship and one domestic Cup since their great era back in the 1930s. But Wilmots' arrival coincided with not only a surge up the Bundesliga but a surprise victory in the UEFA Cup Final, against Inter in 1997.

The Belgian had by now moved back into a settled role, attacking from midfield – a position from which he scored twice against Holland's Roda in the first round, then grabbed a goal against both Valencia in the quarter-finals and Tenerife in the semis. Not only that, but he scored the only goal of the Final's first leg.

Schalke lost the return by the same margin which meant the tie going to a shoot-out. With his team leading 3-1, Wilmots stepped up for potentially the decisive kick – which he rolled nervelessly past Gianluca Pagliuca to secure the only European trophy in Schalke's history.

Now Wilmots has his sights set on another European prize, though he readily admits that Belgium can hardly expect to be among the favourites at Euro 2000.

"It will be a historic event," he says. "We first staged the finals in 1972 and have waited a long time for them to come back. We cannot waste this chance."

Then again, Wilmots has other worries. He is seriously concerned that a hooligan invasion could wreck the finals. Since he plays in Germany, he knows how the football community there already carries a burden of guilt after the hooligan attack in Lens at France 98 which nearly resulted in the death of a gendarme.

But he warns that all those foreign fans already counting the days until they set off for Holland and Belgium in June should be aware of the risks they take.

He says: "Belgium and Holland are only small countries. If hooligans come in from England, Italy and Germany then it will be dangerous. I have to admit to being worried. The organisers are doing what they can. They are registering the name and address of the purchaser of every ticket, cars won't be allowed anywhere near the stadia and buses will be laid on to try to keep the fans under tighter control.

"But then, I'm not so worried about the stadia. In the grounds I think everything will probably go peacefully. What really scares me is the thought of what may happen in the streets after the matches, when fans are mixing as they leave the stadia and head back into the towns and cities."

Wilmots pinpoints the grounds with the greatest security risk as being Liege, Charleroi and Antwerp in Belgium, and De Kuip in Rotterdam, which, worryingly, is the venue for the Euro 2000 Final.

He adds: "I hope, of course, that the police will manage to keep everything under control. But the organisation will have to be perfect – right down to the last detail. I think it might be for the best if there were to be more police than fans. It's sad to have to say so but it might be better that way."

Fact file

Club Schalke (Ger)
Country Belgium
Born February 22, 1969, in Dongelberg
Previous clubs St Truiden, Mechelen, Standard Liege
International debut May 1990, v Romania
International caps 43 (16 goals)
Honours UEFA Cup 1997 (Schalke); Belgian Cup 1993 (Standard)

after entering the fray. Even more vital was his audacious winner six minutes from the end of the play-off first leg against Ukraine, a magnificent lob from near the halfway line which bamboozled opposition keeper Olexander Shovkovskyi, gave Slovenia a 2-1 victory and proved the decisive goal in their 3-2 aggregate success.

"Someone in the heavens was smiling on me against the Ukraine," says Acimovic. "I was feeling lucky and on seeing their keeper out of position, I just struck the ball and hoped. Fortunately for us, I hit it quite well and the keeper couldn't get to it in time.

"I've never scored one like that before and maybe I never will again. It was an unbelievable moment, an unbelievable goal.

"I'm very happy to be part of a Slovenia squad which is going to the European finals for the first time, and hope the coach uses me in Holland and Belgium.

"For now, it's good to be thought of as a decisive substitute. It's all good publicity for me when I'm used as a sub and help turn a game. But I'm ambitious and don't want to be pigeon-holed as a substitute for ever. I aim to be a regular starter for Slovenia one day soon."

Few will be expecting Slovenia to qualify from their Euro 2000 group, in which they face Spain, Norway and Yugoslavia. But according to Acimovic, he and his team-mates will not be cowering in fear of embarrassment this summer.

"No one knows too much about us and, of course, it will be to our advantage if everyone underestimates us.

"Personally, I don't have any doubt that we will be ready for the challenge of Euro 2000. Within our side there is a lot of character and desire, and I think this was apparent when we eliminated the Ukraine. They had better-known players, guys like Shevchenko and Rebrov. But we wanted victory more than they did and we're hungry for more success."

Fact file

Club Red Star Belgrade (Yug)
Country Slovenia
Born February 15, 1977, in Ljubljana
Previous clubs Zeleznicar Ljubljana, Olimpia Ljubljana
International debut April 1998, v Czech Republic
International caps 16 (3 goals)
Honours Yugoslav Cup 1999

The men who matter

Dejan Stankovic

Vladimir Novak on the leader of Yugoslavia's new generation

IN AUTUMN 1994, 16-year-old Dejan Stankovic, then still a member of Red Star Belgrade's youth team, was on his way to watch the senior squad train when the head coach, Vladimir Petrovic, told him to get ready to take part in the session.

A few months later, in February 1995, Stankovic made his first-team debut in a League game against OFK Belgrade and became the youngest debutant in Red Star's history.

He certainly has football in the blood. His father, Borislav, was a right-winger at OFK, and his mother, Dragica, played centre-forward for Sloga Zemun, one of the strongest teams in Yugoslav women's soccer.

When given his opportunity, Stankovic quickly developed into a key player, helping Red Star to win the League and Cup double in 1995, plus the Cup for the next two seasons.

Soon the young midfielder was proving himself on the European stage as well. Take, for example, his performance against Kaiserslautern in a Cup-winners Cup tie in September 1996, when he went on as a substitute at half-time and scored two of Red Star's four goals.

When still only 19, Stankovic was given his national debut in a warm-up game for France 98, against South Korea. Again, he took his opportunity in great style, scoring twice and booking his place for the finals, where he appeared in all three group games.

Given Stankovic's early promise, it was less than a surprise when Lazio signed him in the spring of 1998, and despite the fact that the likes of Christian Vieri, Sinisa Mihajlovic, Marcelo Salas, Fernando Couto, Ivan De la Pena and Sergio Conceicao also joined the club the same summer, he assuredly made a first-team place his own.

"Forty matches, nine goals, is a phenomenal return for any debutant in *calcio*, not to mention a player of my age," says Stankovic proudly.

He displays outstanding abilities – pace, fine touch, great heading, powerful shot and excellent all-round team-play – but Stankovic's most impressive characteristic is his versatility. During his youth he often played libero, later he was mainly in central midfield, in the national team he has played at right wing-back, while at Lazio he has operated as an offensive midfielder a number of times, and sometimes even in attack.

"I'm still young. Time will tell which position will be the best one," he says modestly.

"Stankovic is the most complete player at Lazio," says club coach Sven Goran Eriksson. "If he continues playing like he does, it's sure that in two or three years he will be the best midfielder in world football."

During the Euro 2000 qualifiers, Stankovic became a regular starter for Yugoslavia, playing in all eight games and scoring three goals, including a crucial one in the decisive 2-2 draw against Croatia in Zagreb.

If he still does not know his

Outstanding ability...Dejan Stankovic

Fact file

Club Lazio (Ita)
Country Yugoslavia
Born September 11, 1978
Previous club Red Star Belgrade
International debut April 1998, v South Korea
International caps 17 (6 goals)
Honours European Cup-winners Cup 1999; Yugoslav League 1995; Yugoslav Cup 1995, 1996, 1997; Italian Super Cup 1998

favourite position, there are no doubts about his favourite shirt number: it's 6.

"It began during the qualifiers. I scored in Dublin wearing 6 and remembered that I also scored wearing 6 in my first match for Lazio, in the same stadium, in a pre-season friendly against St Patrick's. Then I thought back and recalled my goals against Korea and Switzerland.

"Before our next game, against Macedonia at home, I asked for No 6, but Saveljic took it, because he played instead of the injured Mihajlovic. I took No 7 and missed several goal opportunities.

"Before the return match versus Macedonia, I promised Buda [national team secretary Budimir Vujacic] I'd score if he gave me No 6. He agreed, we won 4-2 – and I scored."

At Lazio this season, Stankovic's shirt number is 20, but underneath it he wears a white T-shirt bearing a handwritten 6.

After qualification for Euro 2000, national coach Vujadin Boskov promised to rejuvenate the team, and recently announced that he will not be counting on Dragan Stojkovic or Dejan Savicevic.

Whether he does in fact leave them out remains to be seen, but whatever happens there are likely to be a few new faces in the Yugoslav squad for Holland and Belgium.

"We are not going to have only one game there," said Boskov. "The tournament will be a tough competition, and therefore I need players who are able to play 90 minutes with the same pace.

"Stojkovic and Savicevic are great players, but, given their age, they cannot play in the same rhythm for the whole distance of a game. And they are not players for the bench. That's for players like Kezman [20-year-old Partizan forward] or Drulic [22-year-old Red Star forward] rather than Stojkovic and Savicevic."

Dejan Stankovic, although only 21, is already among the key players in the squad and will be the leader of the new generation. If his career continues in the same style, and if he is spared serious injuries, there is no doubt that his best time is yet to come.

WARM-UP GAMES ARRANGED TO DATE

BELGIUM
PORTUGAL (Feb 23, Brussels); **HOLLAND** (Mar 29, Brussels); **NORWAY** (Apr 26, Oslo); **DENMARK** (June 3, Copenhagen)

CZECH REPUBLIC
AUSTRALIA (Mar 29, Prague)

DENMARK
PORTUGAL (Mar 29, Lisbon); **SWEDEN** (Apr 26, Copenhagen); **BELGIUM** (June 3, Copenhagen)

ENGLAND
ARGENTINA (Feb 23, Wembley); **BRAZIL** (May 27, Wembley); **MALTA** (June 3, La Valletta)

FRANCE
POLAND (Feb 23, venue tba); **SCOTLAND** (Mar 29, Glasgow); **SLOVENIA** (Apr 26, Paris); **CROATIA** (May 28, Zagreb); **MOROCCO** (June 4, venue tba)

GERMANY
HOLLAND (Feb 23, Amsterdam); **CROATIA** (Mar 29, Zagreb); **SWITZERLAND** (Apr 26, Kaiserslautern); **LIECHTENSTEIN** (June 7, Freiburg)

HOLLAND
GERMANY (Feb 23, Amsterdam); **BELGIUM** (Mar 29, Brussels); **ROMANIA** (May 27, Amsterdam); **SWITZERLAND** (June 4, Geneva)

ITALY
SWEDEN (Feb 23, Palermo); **SPAIN** (Mar 29, venue tba); **PORTUGAL** (Apr 26, venue tba); **NORWAY** (June 3, Oslo)

NORWAY
BELGIUM (Apr 26, Oslo); **ITALY** (June 3, Oslo)

PORTUGAL
BELGIUM (Feb 23, Brussels); **DENMARK** (Mar 29, Lisbon); **ITALY** (Apr 26, venue tba)

ROMANIA
HOLLAND (May 27, Amsterdam)

SLOVENIA
FRANCE (Apr 26, Paris)

SPAIN
POLAND (Jan 26, venue tba); **CROATIA** (Feb 23, venue tba); **ITALY** (Mar 29, venue tba); **SWEDEN** (June 3, venue tba); **LUXEMBOURG** (June 7, venue tba)

SWEDEN
ITALY (Feb 23, Palermo); **AUSTRIA** (Mar 29, Vienna); **DENMARK** (Apr 26, Copenhagen); **SPAIN** (June 3, venue tba)

tba = to be announced; tbc = to be confirmed

EURO 2000 THE SCHEDULE

GROUP A

12.06.00	Liege	Germany-Romania
12.06.00	Eindhoven	Portugal-England
17.06.00	Arnhem	Romania-Portugal
17.06.00	Charleroi	England-Germany
20.06.00	Charleroi	England-Romania
20.06.00	Rotterdam	Portugal-Germany

GROUP B

10.06.00	Brussels	Belgium-Sweden
11.06.00	Arnhem	Turkey-Italy
14.06.00	Brussels	Italy-Belgium
15.06.00	Eindhoven	Sweden-Turkey
19.06.00	Brussels	Turkey-Belgium
19.06.00	Eindhoven	Italy-Sweden

GROUP C

13.06.00	Rotterdam	Spain-Norway
13.06.00	Charleroi	Yugoslavia-Slovenia
18.06.00	Amsterdam	Slovenia-Spain
18.06.00	Liege	Norway-Yugoslavia
21.06.00	Bruges	Yugoslavia-Spain
21.06.00	Arnhem	Slovenia-Norway

GROUP D

11.06.00	Bruges	France-Denmark
11.06.00	Amsterdam	Holland-Czech Rep
16.06.00	Bruges	Czech Rep-France
16.06.00	Rotterdam	Denmark-Holland
21.06.00	Amsterdam	France-Holland
21.06.00	Liege	Denmark-Czech Rep

QUARTER-FINALS

24.06.00	Amsterdam	A1 v B2	(1)
24.06.00	Brussels	B1 v A2	(2)
25.06.00	Rotterdam	D1 v C2	(3)
25.06.00	Bruges	C1 v D2	(4)

SEMI-FINALS

28.06.00	Brussels	1 v 4
29.06.00	Amsterdam	2 v 3

FINAL

02.07.00	Rotterdam

The people's champio

Sigurd Odegaard on a decade of triumph for the community-spirited Trondheim club

DURING the past decade Rosenborg BK have gradually grown into Norway's and Scandinavia's most successful football club. The process began in the 1980s when they challenged Viking, Valerenga and Lillestrom for domestic hegemony, and after winning the championship in 1988 they have gone on to take 10 out of 12 League titles. They have won the last eight championships in succession.

Coach Nils Arne Eggen has been the most influential person during this triumphant period. The foundation for the success was laid in 1988 when former international player Arne Dokken, then director of the club, and Eggen defined and put into practice the philosophy that would become so vital for the club.

In 1985, Dokken, then the coach, had brought the League title back to Rosenborg for the first time since 1971, after which Eggen returned to Trondheim following two successful seasons at Moss.

The pair first decided to change the club into what they termed "a company for the entertainment industry". Their aim was to make the team play attractive football which would draw crowds to their Lerkendal stadium. This meant that they would partly develop their own players with flair, in addition to bringing in skilful footballers from other clubs. Emphasis would be put on attacking football instead of defensive work.

New kid in town...striker John Carew

Dokken and Eggen believed that the club should also be identified with the ordinary citizen of Trondheim. The population should be able to feel that Rosenborg was their club, and that they should all be included in it somehow. Links with local businesses were established and the club made efforts to become a part of the local economy in Trondheim and the surrounding region of Trondelag.

Continuity was the key word for the new era. Rosenborg had learnt from clubs like Liverpool to educate their own leaders and coaches, and that recruitment should be from within the club itself.

The football team was a metaphor for the organisations and businesses that the club worked with. The ultimate aim was to gain success together, but patience was another necessary ingredient.

The philosophy brought immediate success, though in the early 1990s there were occasional revolts by certain players. Eggen's style of leadership and personal temperament gave the players the impression that he would not listen to their opinions. But things calmed down after some silverware had been won.

Rosenborg's matches in Europe in 1993 and 1994 gave them valuable experience, and when they qualified for the group stage of the 1995-96 Champions League by beating Besiktas, they were ready for the really big guns.

Good results and exciting performances at home in that campaign gave them a taste of what was to come, but away from home the team had a lot to learn. Eleven goals conceded at Legia Warzaw, Moscow Spartak and Blackburn proved that the away record was simply not good enough.

After yet another Norwegian League title in 1996, Rosenborg went a step further in the Champions League, beating Milan 2-1 away in their final group game and qualifying for the quarter-finals, where they lost out to Juventus.

With such success behind them, Rosenborg soon had to accept the fact that their players would be sought out by foreign clubs. Stig Inge Bjornebye left for Liverpool in 1992 and Oyvind Leonhardsen for Wimbledon in 1994. Later, Trond Egil Soltvedt, Bjorn Tore Kvarme and Jon Olav Hjelde also sought their luck in England, while Harald Brattbakk and Staale Stensaas moved to Scotland, with Celtic and Rangers respectively.

But despite the fact that players left the club, Rosenborg managed not only to maintain their playing standards but also improved in quality. Vegard Heggem and Steffen Iversen came through

ns

from the ranks, and when they too departed, for Liverpool and Tottenham respectively, others such as Sigurd Rushfeldt, Christer Basma and Jan Derek Sorensen were brought to Rosenborg. Rushfeldt has since moved to Racing Santander, with John Carew being signed as his replacement.

Nils Arne Eggen has always been critical about the eagerness some of his players have shown to move abroad. "None of the players we have sold over the last five years have improved since they left us," he says. "At Rosenborg, players help each other to develop. Abroad, the players have to trust their own individual capacity. This is much more difficult. Most clubs don't understand that players must be given the chance to exploit their individual strengths. A coach should always try to bring out every player's individual capacity and skills.

"Harald Brattbakk is a good example of what I mean," Eggen continues. "With us, he was a prolific goalscorer and he had a clearly defined role in our attacking pattern of play. With Celtic, he is not given the chance to show what he does best. He simply does not fit in."

Andre Bergdolmo, left-back for Rosenborg and Norway, says: "I have spoken to the players in our national squad about the way their clubs play football. None of the other clubs have such a clearly defined pattern of play as we have at Rosenborg. And this makes it especially difficult for our attacking players to succeed abroad. They are not given the opportunity to shine without the movement and runs they know so well from before."

In October, just before Rosenborg's Champions League game against Boavista, 50 coaches from Scandinavia were invited to Trondheim to study Nils Arne Eggen's coaching techniques. Having watched the team's final training session, one of the coaches asked Eggen if he was going to work on the defensive part of his team as well. Eggen replied: "It is the attacking movement of the team that is fascinating. It is the emphasis that we put on attacking football and simultaneous movement that makes us different from other teams in Scandinavia."

Big plans...Rosenborg are lining up for further success

National manager Nils Johan Semb was also present at these training sessions. He says: "If you are searching for one particular reason to explain Rosenborg's success in the 1990s, it is as simple as to name Nils Arne Eggen. I have learnt a lot from him, and the national team has used important impulses from Rosenborg. It is healthy to have a situation where the national team and the best domestic club team stimulate each other."

'None of the players we have sold over the last five years have improved since they left us'
– Nils Arne Eggen

Old master...coach Nils Arne Eggen

Before this autumn's Cup Final against Brann, Eggen was worried that his players would lack appetite because they had already secured another League title and had comfortably made it through the first group phase of the Champions League.

In order to motivate his players, the coach told them: "Let's go out and win this Final for Jan Derek Sorensen, as he has been on the losing side in three previous Cup Finals for three different clubs."

And it worked. The players gave everything to defeat Brann, and Sorensen himself scored both goals in the 2-0 win.

Eggen loves to challenge his players to help a certain team member experience the success others have already tasted. To achieve success for certain players is one of the many doctrines that he advocates for his more experienced team members.

As for Sorensen, he makes no bones about who he has to thank for his development this season. "Without Eggen and Rosenborg I would not have been the player I am now," he says. "To break into the national team and to score vital goals in the Cup Final and in Champions League matches proves that I have made considerable progress."

Rosenborg have made a lot of money from their exploits in Europe, and from the sale of players, but the club is conscious about remaining the people's club. Wealth can easily create distance. The club's administration is conducted in a barrack block, popularly called *Brakka*, and they have no intention of moving to more luxurious premises. Today, everyone is welcome to visit and sit down in *Brakka* and be part of the club.

"Life is a continual process," says Eggen. "I have never felt that I have reached the top. Success comes as a product of work people around you have done. We do not fulfil each other through ourselves, but through others – teamwork."

Rosenborg's main problem through the winter, after the domestic League has finished, is to keep their standards. The team's lack of sharpness clearly showed in the first match of the Champions League second group phase, against Bayern Munich in late November.

"We played some terrible football in the first half," says Eggen, who saw his team go in 1-0 down at half-time. "But we showed in the second half that we managed to lift ourselves. I have to admit that the play we showed in the first half did not resemble Rosenborg. This goes to show that we have set our standards high in this club now. But 1-1 against Bayern isn't too bad, is it?"

As the winter makes it impossible to play football in Norway, Rosenborg travel to La Manga in Spain where the Norwegian FA give the club access to superb training facilities. This oasis allows Norwegian clubs to train in sunshine on lush green grass. And Rosenborg will see to it that standards will not slip. Just ask Nils Arne Eggen!

Northern lights...Rosenborg's Lerkendal stadium

THE COACH

Nils Arne EGGEN
Born: 17.09.41
Outspoken 58-year old who has had enormous experience, as player and coach. Won 29 caps for Norway before going on to have spells coaching both the national and the Olympic teams. Has won seven championships and four cups as coach and is the most successful club coach in Norway. To him, football is all about teamwork.

GOALKEEPERS

Jorn JAMTFALL
24.06.74
Has had his ups and downs but he always succeeds in coming back. A bad error in a Champions League tie against Legia Warzaw in 1995 led him to the verge of giving up football altogether. Has kept his challengers at bay but is the sort of keeper that can bring supporters to despair in one moment only to pull off amazing saves minutes after. Great shot stopper.

Arni ARASON
07.05.75
Was brought in from Icelandic side Stjarnan two seasons ago and has had short spells in the Rosenborg goal. Physically agile but inexperienced at top level.

DEFENDERS

Andre BERGDOLMO
13.10.71
Reliable left-back and a regular in the national team. The former Lillestrom player has developed gradually since his move to Trondheim in 1994 and he has just finished his best domestic season for the club. Very precise when making long passes.

Erik HOFTUN
03.03.69
Experienced central defender who started his second spell with Rosenborg in 1994 having had a spell at Molde. Turned down moves to Italy and has since signed a long-term contract with Rosenborg. His runs out of central defence make him an attacking option as well.

Bjorn Otto BRAGSTAD
05.01.71
Partners Hoftun in central defence. When Hjelde and Johnsen were preferred to Bragstad some years ago he refused to give up and returned with a vengeance. Has won caps for Norway and is pacy and reliable. Scores goals as well.

Christer BASMA
01.08.72
Was bought from Stabaek when Vegard Heggem left for Liverpool last summer. Originally a central defender who has slotted well into the right-back position. Very quick but has struggled with a thigh injury lately.

Explosive pace...Jan Derek Sorensen

MIDFIELDERS

Roar STRAND
02.02.70
A running machine who scores goals regularly and can play in most positions. Spent the 1991 season with Molde but has since played 300 matches for Rosenborg. Has won more trophies than anyone else in Norwegian football: 12 League and Cup titles. Has also done well for Norway (17 caps). Injured in the first half of the season.

Orjan BERG
20.08.68
Midfield dynamo who is on loan from Bodo/Glimt as a replacement for brother Runar, who joined Venezia last summer. Second spell at the club and has also played in Switzerland. One of three footballing brothers.

Bent SKAMMELSRUD
18.05.66
Has played more than 300 matches since his move from Malmo to Rosenborg in 1991. Has been part of the club's success all through the 1990s and has won eight League titles with them. Had a spell with Bayer Leverkusen in Germany but returned after some months for private reasons. A lethal left foot.

Mini JAKOBSEN
08.11.65
Originally arrived from Bodo in 1988 and returned to Rosenborg in 1995 after spells in Switzerland, Belgium and Germany. Age has reduced his pace but he is still a player with flair. Has 64 caps for Norway.

Fredrik WINSNES
18.12.75
Small midfield warrior who covers an enormous distance during matches and deservedly got his breakthrough this season. Not noted for his goalscoring, but enjoyed his strike against Dortmund in the Champions League. Combines his football with medical studies.

FORWARDS

Tore Andre DAHLUM
21.12.68
Arrived originally from Start Kristiansand in 1992, departed for a brief spell in Greece, and returned to Rosenborg in 1997. Popular player who has scored important goals for the club and played 11 times for Norway. Is being lined up for a move to Belgian club Gent.

John CAREW
05.09.79
20-year-old talent who was bought for £2million from Valerenga last summer as a replacement for Sigurd Rushfeldt. Strong, athletic player with great pace despite his height. Still lacking in technical ability but a very effective goalscorer. Probably a Norway star of the future who will benefit from Eggen's guidance at Rosenborg.

Jan Derek SORENSEN
28.12.71
Arrived in 1998 to replace Harald Brattbakk. Originally a centre-forward, he has been used on the right wing where he can exploit his explosive pace to full effect. Has blossomed this season and scored vital goals at home and abroad. His form has earned him an international call-up.

Bent Inge JOHNSEN
28.01.72
Versatile player who arrived in 1998 but has not managed to establish a regular place in the side.

FEBRUARY 2000

THE NO.1 INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL MAGAZINE

WORLD SERVICE

YOUR COMPLETE GUIDE TO THE MONTH'S STATS & FACTS

INTERNATIONALS

Sunday, December 5

Dec 5 - Panama City - friendly
Panama 1 (L Dely Valdes 90)
Cuba 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 10,000

Sunday, December 12

Dec 12 - Dakar - friendly
Senegal 3 (Mbaye 10, Toure 48, Ba 65)
Gambia 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 6,000

Tuesday, December 14

Dec 14 - Salonika - friendly
Greece 1 (Kyparisis 12)
Ghana 1 (Akonnor 41)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 10,000

Wednesday, December 15

Dec 15 - Valletta - friendly
Malta 1 (Carabott pen 78)
Libya 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 4,000
Match abandoned 83min (fighting among players)

Dec 15 - San Pedro Sula - friendly
Honduras 7 (Carcamo 13, Caballero 15, 88, De Leon 28, Martinez 30, Guevara 80, 82)
Zambia 1 (Tana 46)
HT: 4-0. **Att:** 8,000

Wednesday, December 22

Dec 22 - Sfax - friendly
Tunisia 2 (Mhadhbi 53, Bechir Mogaadi 68)
Ghana 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 9,000

Dec 22 - Agadir - friendly
Morocco 0
Senegal 0
Att: 8,000. **Ref:** Hadka (Mor)

OTHER INTERNATIONALS

Dec 1 (Cordoba): Argentina U-23 4 (Messera 38, Esteban Cambiasso 48, Samuel 63, D'Alessandro 80) Denmark U-23 0.
Dec 4 (Ciudad del Este): Denmark U-23 2 (Degn 63, Clemens 89) Paraguay U-23 0.
Dec 7 (Ciudad del Este): Paraguay 1 Denmark U-23 1.
Dec 11 (Cuiaba, Mato Grosso): Brazil U-23 3 (Fabio Junior 37, 60, Baiano 90) Bolivia 0.
Dec 12 (Cuiaba): Brazil U-23 3 (Fabio Junior 20, Fabio Bilica 87, Adriano 89) Paraguay U-23 3 (Candian 54, Rodriguez 61, Cueves 78).
Dec 18 (Armenia): Colombia U-23 4 (Candelo pen 17, 34, Cordoba 83, Jorge Diaz 90) Paraguay U-23 3 (Cuevas 10, Ramirez 23, Morel 33).
Dec 21 (Santiago de Compostela): Compostela 4 Nigeria 1.
(Santa Cruz); Canary Islands 2 Yugoslavia 2.
Dec 23 (Macao): Macao XI 0 China 4.
(Montjuic, Barcelona): Catalonia 1 (Oscar Garcia 45) Yugoslavia 0.

EUROPE

BELGIUM

Saturday, December 11

Anderlecht 3 (Zetterberg pen 20, Koller 62, 86)
Charleroi 0 Att: 23,877

Club Brugge 4 (Verheyen 15, Borkelmans 25, Vermant 83, De Cock 88)
Geel 0 Att: 11,000

Germinal BA 2 (Mutavdzic 23, Degryse 47)
Beveren 0 Att: 8,000

Lokeren 5 (Vonasek 60, M'Bayo 68, Dago 72, Youla 83, 86)
Lierse 1 (Huysegems 64) Att: 5,000

Mechelen 2 (Van Geem og 35, Elias 80)
Genk 0 Att: 9,150

St Truiden 2 (Mertens 48, Fiers 50)
Lommel 0 Att: 5,500

Westerlo 4 (T Brogno 26, Janssens 60, Serneels 72, Milosevic 90)
Gent 2 (Arst 44, Joly 70) Att: 6,000

Sunday, December 12

Eendracht Aalst 2 (Thiebaut 52, De Oliveira 79)
Mouscron 5 (Vanderhaeghe 13, Lawaree 21, 90, Ma. Zewlakow 54, 74) Att: 5,000

Harelbeke 3 (Zvingilas 6, Kaku 31, Verhoene 88)
Standard 4 (Thys 38, E Mpenza 41, Afolabi 51, M Mpenza 87) Att: 5,000

BELGIUM

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Anderlecht	16	12	3	1	45	19	39
Genk	17	10	5	2	43	22	35
Club Brugge	16	10	2	4	37	14	32
Lierse	17	9	4	4	30	20	31
Gent	17	10	0	7	48	34	30
Germinal BA	17	9	3	5	30	24	30
Westerlo	17	8	4	5	38	36	28
Standard	17	8	2	7	28	31	26
Mouscron	17	7	4	6	34	26	25
Eendracht Aalst	17	7	2	8	32	30	23
Mechelen	17	7	2	8	25	40	23
Lokeren	17	5	5	7	31	34	20
Charleroi	17	4	5	8	20	29	17
Beveren	17	3	5	9	21	35	14
Harelbeke	17	3	4	10	26	34	13
St Truiden	17	3	4	10	18	38	13
Lommel	17	1	8	8	14	32	11
Geel	17	1	8	8	11	33	11

BELGIAN CUP – LAST 16

Dec 17: Standard 2 Westerlo 1.
Dec 18: FC Antwerp 1 Lierse 2;
Lokeren 4 Mechelen 0;
Mouscron 0 St Truiden 0 (St Truiden on pens)
Dec 19: Genk 8 Ingelmunster 1;
Bergen 2 Lommel 0;
Waregem 0 Gent 2.

CROATIA

Dec 7: Cibalia 1 Croatia 4.

CROATIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Croatia	16	12	3	1	46	12	39
Hajduk	16	12	3	1	41	15	39
Osijek	16	9	2	5	29	24	29
Rijeka	16	7	3	6	31	21	24
Zagreb	16	5	7	4	19	19	22
Cibalia	16	5	6	5	21	19	21
Slaven	16	4	8	4	16	20	20
Varteks	16	5	3	8	18	28	18
Vukovar '91	16	3	5	8	14	26	14
Sibenik	16	2	7	7	12	26	13
Hrvatski drag	16	2	5	9	17	37	11
Istra	16	2	4	10	16	33	10

ENGLAND

Saturday, December 18

Arsenal 1 (Henry 61)
Wimbledon 1 (Cort 7) Att: 38,052

Aston Villa 2 (Merson 69, Taylor 82)
Sheffield Wed 1 (De Bilde pen 20) Att: 23,885

Bradford 2 (Saunders 54, Wetherall 71)
Newcastle 0 Att: 18,286

Leicester 0
Derby 1 (Powell 69) Att: 18,581

Liverpool 2 (Owen 45, Camara 74)
Coventry 0 Att: 44,024

Middlesbrough 2 (Ziege 35, Deane 67)
Tottenham 1 (Vega 8) Att: 33,129

Sunderland 2 (Phillips 30, 90)
Southampton 0 Att: 40,860

Watford 1 (Ngonge 60)
Everton 3 (Barmby 4, Hutchison 37, Unsworth pen 86) Att: 17,346

West Ham 2 (Di Canio 23, 52)
Man Utd 4 (Yorke 8, 62, Giggs 12, 19) Att: 26,037

Sunday, December 19

Chelsea 0
Leeds 2 (McPhail 66, 87) Att: 35,106

Sunday, December 26

Coventry 3 (McAllister 6, Hadji 40, Keane 71)
Arsenal 2 (Ljungberg 67, Suker 87) Att: 22,757

Derby 0
Aston Villa 2 (Boateng 68, Taylor 78) Att: 33,222

Everton 5 (Hutchison 16, 26, Jeffers 41, Pembridge 61, Campbell 72)
Sunderland 0 Att: 40,017

Leeds 2 (Bridges 29, Bowyer 45)
Leicester 1 (Cottee 10) Att: 40,105

Man Utd 4 (Fortune 75, Yorke 79, Cole 87, Keane 88)
Bradford 0 Att: 55,188

Newcastle 2 (Shearer 12, Ferguson 67)
Liverpool 2 (Owen 31, 52) Att: 36,445

Sheffield Wed 1 (Atherton 28)
Middlesbrough 0 Att: 28,531

Southampton 1 (Davies 80)
Chelsea 2 (Flo 18, 43) Att: 15,232

Tottenham 4 (Ginola 28, Iversen 33, Sherwood 56, 83)
Watford 0 Att: 36,089

Wimbledon 2 (Hreidarsson 33, Ardley 85)
West Ham 2 (Sinclair 45, Lampard 81) Att: 20,394

Tuesday, December 28

Arsenal 2 (Ljungberg 32, Henry 58)
Leeds 0 Att: 38,096

Bradford 0
Everton 0 Att: 18,276

Leicester 1 (Zagorakis 83)
Newcastle 2 (Ferguson 21, 53) Att: 21,225

Liverpool 3 (Owen 58, Berger 68, Fowler 80)
Wimbledon 1 (Gayle 64) Att: 44,107

Sunderland 2 (McCann 2, Quinn 13)
Man Utd 2 (Keane 27, Butt 86) Att: 42,026

Watford 3 (Perpetuini 17, Gravelaine 31, 65)
Southampton 2 (Boa Morte 61, Davies 63) Att: 18,459

West Ham 1 (Di Canio 21)
Derby 1 (Sturridge 4) Att: 24,998

Wednesday, December 29

Aston Villa 1 (Taylor 74)
Tottenham 1 (Sherwood 44) Att: 39,217

Chelsea 3 (Wise 32, Flo 35, Morris 84)
Sheffield Wed 0 Att: 32,938

Monday, January 3

Derby 2 (Strupar 2, 72)
Watford 0 Att: 28,072

Everton 2 (Weir 15, Unsworth pen 56)
Leicester 2 (Elliott 25, 31) Att: 30,490

Leeds 1 (Kewell 46)
Aston Villa 2 (Southgate 19, 62) Att: 40,027

Newcastle 2 (Dabizas 17, Speed 66)
West Ham 2 (Lampard 84, Stimac 88) Att: 36,314

Sheffield Wed 1 (Sibon 56)
Arsenal 1 (Petit 41) Att: 26,155

Southampton 1 (Davies 55)
Bradford 0 Att: 15,027

Tottenham 1 (Armstrong 23)
Liverpool 0 Att: 36,044

Wimbledon 1 (Cort 30)
Sunderland 0 Att: 17,621

Tuesday, January 4

Coventry 2 (Roussel 54, Keane 82)
Chelsea 2 (Flo 55, 83) Att: 20,164

ENGLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Leeds	21	14	2	5	35	24	44
Man Utd	19	13	4	2	50	25	43
Arsenal	21	12	4	5	37	21	40
Sunderland	21	11	5	5	35	25	38
Liverpool	21	11	4	6	31	18	37
Tottenham	20	10	4	6	32	23	34
Chelsea	19	9	4	6	28	20	31
Leicester	21	9	3	9	30	30	30
Everton	21	7	8	6	35	30	29
Aston Villa	21	8	5	8	21	22	29
West Ham	20	7	7	6	24	23	28
Middlesbrough	19	8	3	8	23	26	27
Coventry	20	6	7	7	28	24	25
Wimbledon	21	5	10	6	32	35	25
Newcastle	21	6	6	9	34	37	24
Southampton	20	5	5	10	24	32	20
Derby	21	5	4	12	19	32	19
Bradford	20	4	5	11	15	30	17
Watford	21	4	2	15	17	44	14
Sheffield Wed	20	2	4	14	17	46	10

FA CUP – 3RD RND

Dec 11: Aston Villa 2 Darlington 1;
Crewe Alexandra 1 Bradford 1;
Derby 0 Burnley 1;
Exeter City 0 Everton 0;
Hereford 0 Leicester 0;
Hull City 1 Chelsea 6;
Norwich 1 Coventry 3;
Sheffield Wed 1 Bristol City 0;
Sunderland 1 Portsmouth 0;
Tranmere 1 West Ham 0;
Watford 0 Birmingham 1;
Wimbledon 1 Barnsley 0;
Wrexham 2 Middlesbrough 1.
Dec 12: Huddersfield 0 Liverpool 2;
Leeds 2 Port Vale 0;
Tottenham 1 Newcastle 1.
Dec 13: Arsenal 3 Blackpool 1;
Ipswich 0 Southampton 1.

3RD RND REPLAYS

Dec 21: Everton 1 Exeter 0.
Dec 22: Leicester 2 Hereford 1 (aet);
Newcastle 6 Tottenham 1.

LEAGUE CUP – 4TH RND

Dec 15: Leicester 0 Leeds 0 (aet)
Leicester on pens.

LEAGUE CUP – QUARTER-FINALS

Dec 14: Bolton 2 Wimbledon 1;
Tranmere 2 Middlesbrough 1.

FRANCE

Saturday, December 11

Le Havre 0
Nancy 1 (Cascarino pen 61) Att: 9,383

Montpellier 1 (Delaye 81)
Strasbourg 1 (Ehret 55) Att: 9,228

Rennes 1 (Bardon 24)
Lyon 2 (Malbranque 18, Anderson 77) Att: 13,443

Sedan 1 (Cronier 33)
Auxerre 1 (Guivarc'h 27) Att: 10,000

Troyes 2 (Djukic 41, Ghazi 61)
Bordeaux 0 Att: 14,280

Sunday, December 12

Bastia 1 (Camara 84)
Monaco 0 Att: 8,000

Metz 1 (Jestrovic 58)
Paris SG 3 (Christian 17, 19, 79) Att: 19,989

Saint-Etienne 5 (Alex 5, 20, 27, 61, Potillon 11)
Marseille 1 (Dalmat 89) Att: 33,595

Tuesday, December 14

Lens 1 (Job 11)
Nantes 2 (Da Rocha 4, Caveglia 90) Att: 37,454

Friday, December 17

Auxerre 1 (Baticle 80)
Paris SG 0 Att: 10,000

Bordeaux 1 (Wiltord 51)
Rennes 0 Att: 25,000

Saturday, December 18

Lyon 2 (Malbranque 57, Anderson 82)
Metz 0 Att: 25,000

Marseille 1 (Montenegro 21)
Lens 2 (Sikora 49, Queudrue 90) Att: 25,000

Monaco 1 (Simone 33)
Montpellier 0 Att: 3,000

Nancy 1 (Rambo 60)
Saint-Etienne 0 Att: 9,000

Nantes 1 (Da Rocha 81)
Bastia 1 (Nee 90) Att: 15,000

FRANCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Monaco	20	13	3	4	41	17	42
Lyon	20	11	4	5	25	18	37
Paris SG	20	11	3	6	30	22	36
Auxerre	20	10	4	6	26	23	34
Bordeaux	20	8	6	6	31	29	30
Saint-Etienne	20	8	5	7	30	28	29
Sedan	19	8	4	7	27	28	28
Marseille	20	6	8	6	27	25	26
Bastia	20	6	8	6	25	23	26
Rennes	20	7	5	8	26	26	26
Troyes	19	8	2	9	22	28	26
Nantes	20	7	3	10	22	24	24
Metz	20	4	11	5	22	21	23
Nancy	20	6	5	9	26	28	23
Strasbourg	19	6	5	8	19	27	23
Lens	20	6	5	9	18	26	23
Le Havre	19	5	4	10	19	31	19
Montpellier	20	3	5	12	20	32	14

GERMANY

Friday, December 10

Arminia Bielefeld 0
Duisburg 1 (Kovacevic pen 75) Att: 13,770

Werder Bremen 2 (Maximov 27, Ailton 35)
Unterhaching 2 (Straube 75, Breitenreiter 88)
Att: 25,404

Saturday, December 11

Borussia Dortmund 1 (Bobic 23)
Stuttgart 1 (Dundee 26) Att: 60,500

Freiburg 0
Hertha 1 (Daei 77) Att: 24,800

Hansa Rostock 0
Bayern Munich 3 (Paulo Sergio 45, 54, Santa Cruz 64) Att: 24,500

1860 Munich 3 (Hassler 19, Max 55, Cerny 71)
Schalke 3 (Wilmots 23, Sand 35, 89) Att: 25,000

Sunday, December 12

Bayer Leverkusen 2 (Beinlich 34, 49)
Hamburg 2 (N Kovac pen 32, Nowotny og 55)
Att: 22,500

Ulm 3 (Gora 3, Van der Haar 19, Bodog 22)
Kaiserslautern 1 (Bodog og 55) Att: 23,000

Wolfsburg 1 (Biliskov 57)
Eintracht Frankfurt 0 Att: 13,839

Tuesday, December 14

Bayern Munich 2 (Peeters og 27, Salihamidzic pen 58)
Arminia Bielefeld 1 (Labbadia 5) Att: 27,000

Duisburg 0
Werder Bremen 1 (Dabrovski 14) Att: 14,969

Hertha 1 (Konstantinidis 71)
1860 Munich 1 (Max 52) Att: 37,200

Stuttgart 3 (Ganea 54, 62, Pinto 74)
Hansa Rostock 1 (Arvidsson 70) Att: 22,000

Wednesday, December 15

Eintracht Frankfurt 1 (Fjortoft 20)
Bayer Leverkusen 2 (Beinlich 47, 87) Att: 21,000

Kaiserslautern 0
Freiburg 2 (Ramdane 57, Korell 86) Att: 38,654

Schalke 0
Borussia Dortmund 0 Att: 52,240

Unterhaching 1 (Seitz 68)
Hamburg 1 (Mahdavikia 24) Att: 9,000

Wolfsburg 1 (Biliskov 62)
Ulm 2 (Van der Haar 37, 48) Att: 12,267

Friday, December 17

Arminia Bielefeld 1 (Bohme 60)
Stuttgart 2 (Dundee 75, 82) Att: 13,071

Werder Bremen 0
Bayern Munich 2 (Jancker 71, Paulo Sergio 82)
Att: 36,000

Saturday, December 18

Bayer Leverkusen 2 (Brdaric 69, 71)
Unterhaching 1 (Matthias Zimmermann 61)
Att: 22,000

Freiburg 1 (Sellimi 49)
Wolfsburg 1 (Juskowiak 19) Att: 23,500

Hamburg 6 (Yeboah 8, 29, Hoogma 11, 90, Butt pen 41, Hirsch og 43)
Duisburg 1 (Beierle 20) Att: 28,587

1860 Munich 2 (Max 4, Hassler pen 75)
Kaiserslautern 1 (Djorkaeff pen 15) Att: 27,000

ESM ELEVEN

EUROPEAN SPORTS MAGAZINES — DECEMBER 1999

HOW THEY LINE UP

Kahn (3, Bayern); Thuram (4, Parma), Mihajlovic (5, Lazio), Hierro (2, Real), Candela (4, Roma); Keane (6, Man Utd), Gallardo (3, Monaco), Veron (4, Lazio), Giggs (3, Man Utd); Crespo (3, Parma), Milosevic (3, Zaragoza).

HOW THEY VOTED

A BOLA (PORTUGAL)

Kahn (Bayern); Thuram (Parma), Cannavaro (Parma), Mihajlovic (Lazio), Candela (Roma); Keane (Man Utd), Gallardo (Monaco), Makaay (La Coruna), Giggs (Man Utd); Crespo (Parma), Jardel (Porto).

DON BALON (SPAIN)

Toldo (Fiorentina); Thuram (Parma), Donato (La Coruna), Mihajlovic (Lazio); Beckham (Man Utd), Flavio Conceicao (La Coruna), Keane (Man Utd), Figo (Barça); Raul (Real), Tristan (Mallorca), Solskjaer (Man Utd).

FOOT (BELGIUM)

Toldo (Fiorentina); Matthaus (Bayern), Djetou (Monaco), Stam (Man Utd), Mihajlovic (Lazio); Scholl (Bayern), Djalminha (La Coruna), Keane (Man Utd), Stankovic (Mallorca), Van Nistelrooy (PSV), Simeone (Monaco).

FRANCE FOOTBALL

Kahn (Bayern); Torricelli (Fiorentina), Naybet (La Coruna), Mihajlovic (Lazio), Candela (Roma); Kewell (Leeds), Lamouchi (Monaco), Keane (Man Utd), Gallardo (Monaco); Milosevic (Zaragoza), Makaay (La Coruna).

GAZZETTA DELLO SPORT (ITA)

Songo'o (La Coruna); Thuram (Parma), Hierro (Real), Radebe (Leeds), Georgatos (Inter); Figo (Barça), Veron (Lazio), Mostovoi (Celta), Giggs (Man Utd); Crespo (Parma), Milosevic (Zaragoza).

KICKER (GERMANY)

Kahn (Bayern); Montero (Juve), Mihajlovic (Lazio), Candela (Roma); Beckham (Man Utd), Veron (Lazio), Gallardo (Monaco), Djalminha (Monaco); Crespo (Parma), Phillips (Sunderland), Milosevic (Zaragoza).

VOETBAL INTERNATIONAL (HOLLAND)

Lehmann (Dortmund); Thuram (Parma), Naybet (La Coruna), Iuliano (Juve), Candela (Roma); Mendieta (Valencia), Keane (Man Utd), Veron (Lazio), Beinlich (Leverkusen); Hasselbaink (Atletico Madrid), Jardel (Porto).

WORLD SOCCER

Lehmann (Dortmund); Pancaro (Lazio), Hierro (Real), Nesta (Lazio), Heinrich (Fiorentina); Giggs (Man Utd), Keane (Man Utd), Veron (Lazio), Rivaldo (Barça); Kluivert (Barça), Raul (Real).

Ulm 3 (Leandro 8, Scharinger 48, Zdrilic 69)
Eintracht Frankfurt 0 Att: 18,000

Sunday, December 19

Borussia Dortmund 4 (Nijhuis 16, Michalke og 21, Bobic 33, Worns 69)
Hertha 0 Att: 59,000

Hansa Rostock 1 (Benken 70)
Schalke 0 Att: 11,500

GERMANY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bayern Munich	17	11	3	3	33	13	36
Bayer Leverkusen	17	9	7	1	29	18	34
Hamburg	17	8	7	2	39	19	31
1860 Munich	17	8	5	4	28	21	29
B Dortmund	17	7	7	3	24	13	28
Stuttgart	17	8	3	6	21	19	27
Werder Bremen	17	7	5	5	34	24	26
Kaiserslautern	17	7	2	8	21	30	23
Hertha	17	5	7	5	22	28	22
Schalke	17	4	9	4	21	20	21
Wolfsburg	17	5	6	6	22	30	21
Freiburg	17	5	5	7	24	23	20
Unterhaching	17	5	5	7	18	20	20
Hansa Rostock	17	5	5	7	23	35	20
Ulm	17	5	4	8	19	25	19
Duisburg	17	2	7	8	18	30	13
E Frankfurt	17	3	2	12	17	27	11
A Bielefeld	17	2	5	10	13	31	11

GERMAN CUP – QTR-FINALS

Dec 21: Bochum 1 Werder Bremen 2.
Dec 22: Bayern Munich 3 Mainz 0;
Hansa Rostock 2 Stuttgart 1;
Stuttgart Kickers 1 Freiburg 0.

GREECE

Dec 11: Kalamata 1 Apollon 1.
Dec 12: Olympiakos 2 Paniliakos 1; Kavala 3 Panionios 7; Ionikos 1 Iraklis 1; Trikala 0 Proodeftiki 0; Aris 1 Ethnikos A 1; PAOK 5 Xanthi 0.
Dec 13: AEK 3 Panahaiki 0; OFI 3 Panathinaikos 4.
Dec 21: Panahaiki 1 PAOK 2.
Dec 22: Olympiakos 4 Kalamata 1; Apollon 0 Kavala 2; Paniliakos 3 Ionikos 0; Panionios 4 Trikala 1; Proodeftiki 1 AEK 4; Ethnikos A 0 OFI 1; Xanthi 1 Panathinaikos 3.
Dec 28: Kalamata 3 Kavala 2.
Dec 29: Ionikos 1 Olympiakos 2; Trikala 1 Apollon 0; AEK 0 Panionios 1; OFI 1 Iraklis 1; PAOK 1 Proodeftiki 0; Xanthi 0 Ethnikos A 0; Panathinaikos 7 Panahaiki 1.
Dec 30: Aris 2 Paniliakos 1.

GREECE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Olympiakos	13	12	0	1	40	10	36
Panathinaikos	13	11	2	0	37	10	35
OFI	13	9	2	2	24	14	29
Aris	12	6	4	2	16	11	22
AEK	13	6	3	4	25	18	21
PAOK	13	6	3	4	24	18	21
Panionios	13	7	0	6	25	29	21
Paniliakos	13	6	2	5	19	15	20
Iraklis	12	5	2	5	23	22	17
Xanthi	13	3	6	4	12	14	15
Ionikos	13	3	6	4	13	18	15
Ethnikos A	13	4	2	7	12	20	14
Panahaiki	13	3	3	7	14	22	12
Kalamata	13	2	4	7	13	27	10
Kavala	13	2	3	8	11	23	9
Proodeftiki	13	2	3	8	8	20	9
Trikala	13	2	3	8	10	25	9
Apollon	13	1	4	8	7	17	7

HOLLAND

Friday, December 10

AZ 2 (Wijker 10, Opdam 50)
Fortuna 0 Att: 6,608

Saturday, December 11

Roda JC 2 (Peeters 22, Valgaeren 36)
De Graafschap 3 (Tumba 16, 50, Lindenbergh 24) Att: 6,700

Sunday, December 12

Den Bosch 2 (Van der Laan 31, 42)
Vitesse 1 (Van Hooijdonk 38) Att: 4,112

RKC 0
MVV 4 (Caers 10, Van der Weert 65, 67, Gudjonsson 71) Att: 5,900

Utrecht 1 (Zwaanswijk 38)
PSV 1 (Bouma 44) Att: 13,200

Wednesday, December 15

Ajax 1 (Knopper 57)
PSV 3 (Van Nistelrooy 38, 44, 49) Att: 49,500

Heerenveen 4 (Popovic 23, Lurling 41, 74, 79)
RKC 1 (Hansma og 84) Att: 13,500

NEC 1 (De Gier 29)
MVV 0 Att: 7,000

Sparta 3 (Elkhattabi 52, Langerak 56, Nielsen 90)
Den Bosch 2 (Vos 41, Bezzai og 90) Att: 4,251

Vitesse 3 (Van Hooijdonk pen 28, 31, Zongo 87)
Willem II 1 (Sanou 53) Att: 24,500

Thursday, December 16

Feyenoord 0
De Graafschap 0 Att: 25,000

Saturday, December 18

AZ 1 (Van Galen 12)
NEC 1 (Oosterhof 68) Att: 6,432

Fortuna 3 (Hamming 48, 80, Volmer 90)
Vitesse 3 (Sikora 29, 83, Kreek 70) Att: 7,000

PSV 0
Heerenveen 1 (Lurling 84) Att: 28,500

Twente 2 (Van der Lan 51, Vennegoor of Hesselink 82)
Roda JC 1 (Tchoutang 80) Att: 13,000

Willem II 0
Sparta 0 Att: 14,300

Sunday, December 19

De Graafschap 1 (Tumba 12)
Ajax 1 (Machlas 79) Att: 9,300

Utrecht 3 (Zwaanswijk 34, Dijkhuizen 63, John De Jong 70)
Feyenoord 4 (Bosvelt 25, De Visser 32, 46, Cruz 69) Att: 13,800

Tuesday, December 21

MVV 0
PSV 2 (Van Bommel 45, Dirkx 63) Att: 7,600

HOLLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
PSV	18	13	2	3	55	14	41
Heerenveen	17	12	1	4	34	17	37
Ajax	17	11	3	3	47	24	36
Feyenoord	17	9	6	2	33	18	33
Twente	17	9	6	2	30	17	33
AZ	18	10	2	6	36	28	32
Vitesse	18	9	5	4	35	27	32
Willem II	17	9	3	5	30	32	30
Roda JC	17	9	2	6	29	23	29
RKC	18	9	2	7	30	35	29
Utrecht	18	7	1	10	28	35	22
Sparta	17	5	1	11	25	38	16
NEC	17	4	3	10	21	35	15
De Graafschap	18	2	8	8	18	28	14
MVV	18	3	3	12	25	43	12
Fortuna	18	2	5	11	20	33	11
Den Bosch	18	2	4	12	18	47	10
Cambuur	16	2	3	11	15	35	9

HUNGARY

Dec 10: MTK 1 Debrecen 2.
Dec 11: Dunaferr 6 Diosgyor 0; Vasas 4 Siofok 0; Szeged 1 Kispest-Honved 1; Gyor 4 Nyirseg 0; Vac 0 Ujpest 4; Zalaegerszeg 1 Tatabanya 1; Haladas 0 Ferencvaros 2.
Dec 13: Gazszer 1 Nagykanizsa 0.
Dec 17: Gazszer 1 Ujpest 4.
Dec 18: Kispest-Honved 2 Ferencvaros 3.

HUNGARY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dunaferr	17	10	6	1	44	15	36
Vasas	17	11	1	5	32	16	34
MTK	17	9	6	2	30	14	33
Ujpest	17	8	6	3	32	20	30
Debrecen	17	8	5	4	25	18	29
Gazszer	17	7	7	3	23	22	28
Tatabanya	17	6	8	3	20	19	26
Ferencvaros	17	7	4	6	27	17	25
Gyor	17	6	6	5	28	18	24
Zalaegerszeg	17	6	6	5	21	13	24
Haladas	17	5	3	9	18	26	18
Diosgyor	17	4	6	7	17	27	18
Nyiregyhaza	17	4	5	8	15	30	17
Kispest-Honved	17	3	7	7	16	22	16
Nagykanizsa	17	3	6	8	14	22	15
Siofok	17	5	2	10	13	27	14
Szeged	17	3	5	9	13	38	14
Vac	17	1	5	11	15	39	8

ITALY

Saturday, December 11

Lecce 1 (Conticchio 63)
Bari 0 Att: 21,323

Milan 2 (Bierhoff 3, Shevchenko pen 75)
Torino 0 Att: 50,417

Sunday, December 12

Bologna 1 (Signori 25)
Roma 0 Att: 30,038

Juventus 1 (F Inzaghi 21)
Inter 0 Att: 51,905

Lazio 2 (Boksic 15, Stankovic 71)
Fiorentina 0 Att: 46,127

Piacenza 0
Perugia 0 Att: 8,422

Reggina 1 (Kallon 58)
Cagliari 1 (Mayele 42) Att: 21,051

Udinese 3 (Muzzi 29, Locatelli 56, Sottil 62)
Verona 3 (Sottil og 10, Adailton 27, 48) Att: 17,300

Venezia 0
Parma 2 (Cannavaro 18, Crespo 78) Att: 8,446

Saturday, December 18

Bari 2 (Enyinnaya 7, Cassano 88)
Inter 1 (Vieri 23) Att: 38,000

Verona 1 (Adailton pen 57)
Venezia 0 Att: 13,550

Sunday, December 19

Cagliari 0
Lecce 0 Att: 15,634

Fiorentina 1 (Batistuta 20)
Juventus 1 (Tudor 17) Att: 39,855

Lazio 2 (Salas 9, Mihajlovic 59)
Piacenza 0 Att: 41,551

Milan 2 (Shevchenko 61, 74)
Reggina 2 (Pirlo 30, Kallon 78) Att: 52,171

Parma 2 (Crespo 2, Torrisi 24)
Roma 0 Att: 23,739

Perugia 3 (Calori 33, Amoruso 60, Olive 84)
Bologna 2 (Wome 50, Signori 64) Att: 9,712

Torino 0
Udinese 1 (Jorgensen 27) Att: 16,688

Wednesday, January 5

Venezia 2 (Ganz 18, Maniero 59)
Lazio 0

Thursday, January 6

Bologna 1 (Andersson 28)
Cagliari 0

Inter 5 (Georgatos 18, Seedorf 44, Vieri 57, Jugovic 67, Hilario og 72)
Perugia 0

Juventus 1 (Inzaghi 47)
Verona 0

Lecce 0
Fiorentina 0

Piacenza 0
Milan 1 (Bierhoff 31)

Reggina 2 (Kallon 9, pen 90)
Torino 1 (Calaio 56)

Roma 3 (Montella 3, 29, pen 58)
Bari 1 (Cassano 5)

Udinese 0
Parma 1 (Di Vaio 45)

ITALY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Juventus	15	9	5	1	18	7	32
Lazio	15	9	4	2	30	15	31
Parma	15	9	3	3	28	17	30
Roma	15	8	4	3	29	15	28
Milan	15	7	6	2	30	19	27
Inter	15	8	2	5	29	12	26
Bologna	15	5	5	5	12	13	20
Bari	15	5	5	5	18	20	20
Perugia	15	6	2	7	16	23	20
Fiorentina	15	4	7	4	15	17	19
Udinese	15	5	4	6	19	23	19
Lecce	15	5	4	6	15	23	19
Reggina	15	3	6	6	17	24	15
Verona	15	4	3	8	11	21	15
Torino	15	3	5	7	11	19	14
Venezia	15	3	3	9	11	19	12
Piacenza	15	2	5	8	9	17	11
Cagliari	15	0	7	8	12	26	7

ITALIAN CUP – LAST 16

1st legs
Nov 30: Inter 2 Bologna 1.
Dec 1: Ravenna 1 Lazio 1;
Napoli 1 Juventus 3;
Cagliari 1 Parma 0;
Perugia 1 Fiorentina 0;
Roma 0 Piacenza 1;
Venezia 3 Udinese 0.
Dec 2: Atalanta 3 Milan 2.

2nd legs
Dec 14: Milan 3 Atalanta 0
Milan 5-3 on agg.
Dec 15: Bologna 1 Inter 3
Inter 5-2 on agg;
Lazio 4 Ravenna 1
Lazio 5-2 on agg;
Parma 2 Cagliari 2
Cagliari 3-2 on agg;
Fiorentina 2 Perugia 0
Fiorentina 2-1 on agg;
Udinese 2 Venezia 0
Venezia 3-2 on agg;
Piacenza 0 Roma 3 (aet)
Roma 3-1 on agg.
Dec 16: Juventus 1 Napoli 0
Juventus 4-1 on agg.

PORTUGAL

Friday, December 10

Maritimo 1 (Piaggio 87)
Guimaraes 1 (Riva 51)

Saturday, December 11

Estrela Amadora 3 (Lazaro 33, 42, Raul Oliveira 54)
Alverca 0

Gil Vicente 1 (Sergio og 10)
Boavista 3 (Gilmar 12, Whelliton 58, 75)

Sunday, December 12

Farense 1 (Marinescu pen 84)
Sporting Braga 1 (Toni 39)

Salgueiros 0
Belenenses 0

Santa Clara 2 (George 17, Prokopenko 58)
Campomaiorense 2 (Cao 3, Wellington 52)

Sporting Lisbon 2 (Ayew 26, De Franceschi 31)
Rio Ave 1 (Niquinha 47)

Monday, December 13

Benfica 3 (Nuno Gomes 3, Kandaurov 53, Maniche 73)
Uniao Leiria 2 (Duah 26, 83)

Vitoria Setubal 1 (Frechaut 79)
FC Porto 4 (Jardel 38, 59, pen 81, Ruben Junior 47)

Friday, December 17

Sporting Braga 0
Estrela Amadora 1 (Eric Gaucho 89)

Saturday, December 18

Sporting Lisbon 4 (Ayew 16, De Franceschi 24, Duscher 78, Acosta 80)
Maritimo 2 (Toedtli 27, Mariano 38)

Sunday, December 19

Alverca 4 (Milinkovic 55, Anderson 65, Capucho 77, Caju 81)
Gil Vicente 2 (Casquilha 63, Gugas pen 90)

Belenenses 3 (Seba 45, 78, Rui Pataca 50)
Santa Clara 1 (Prokopenko 83)

Campomaiorense 0
Vitoria Setubal 1 (Ricardo Carvalho 85)

Guimaraes 2 (Brandao 36, Riva 77)
Benfica 1 (Nuno Gomes 3)

Rio Ave 2 (Hugo Henrique 20, Coentrao 44)
Boavista 1 (Whelliton 30)

Uniao Leiria 1 (Leao 7)
Salgueiros 4 (Renato 35, pen 73, Nelson 63, Feher 67)

Monday, December 20

FC Porto 5 (Esquerdinha 7, Jardel 18, 42, 51, Capucho 36)
Farense 0

PORTUGAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FC Porto	15	10	4	1	33	8	34
Sporting Lisbon	15	10	3	2	26	14	33
Benfica	15	9	3	3	23	12	30
Boavista	15	8	3	4	17	12	27
Guimaraes	15	7	4	4	24	18	25
Maritimo	15	7	4	4	20	14	25
Estrela Amadora	15	6	6	3	18	14	24
Gil Vicente	15	7	2	6	22	18	23
Belenenses	15	5	6	4	17	13	21
Alverca	15	6	2	7	17	20	20
Rio Ave	15	4	5	6	18	23	17
Salgueiros	15	5	2	8	13	20	17
Sporting Braga	15	4	2	9	18	23	14
Santa Clara	15	3	5	7	18	23	14
Campomaiorense	15	4	2	9	12	22	14
Vitoria Setubal	15	3	3	9	13	26	12
Farense	15	2	6	7	9	28	12
Uniao Leiria	15	2	4	9	12	22	10

PORTUGUESE CUP – 4TH RND

Dec 8: Alverca 1 Boavista 2 (aet).

ROMANIA

Dec 13: Arges 4 Steaua 0.

ROMANIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dinamo	20	17	2	1	58	15	53
Arges	20	13	3	4	31	15	42
Rapid	20	13	3	4	35	20	42
Ceahlaul	20	11	4	5	27	25	37
Gloria	20	10	2	8	28	24	32
Astra	20	9	3	8	31	24	30
Steaua	19	9	2	8	36	37	29
Bacau	20	8	5	7	21	24	29
U Craiova	20	8	4	8	25	19	28
Petrolul	20	7	4	9	24	31	25
Otelul	20	7	3	10	31	33	24
National	20	6	4	10	27	26	22
Farul	20	6	4	10	24	34	22
Rocar	19	7	0	12	24	31	21
Brasov	20	6	3	11	29	30	21
Onesti	20	6	3	11	24	44	21
Resita	20	4	5	11	24	45	17
Extensiv	20	4	2	14	15	37	14

SCOTLAND

Saturday, December 11

Aberdeen 0
Celtic 6 (Lambert 21, Mahe 28, Moravcik 67, Viduka 75, Blinker 81, Wright 87) Att: 16,532

Hibernian 2 (Paatelainen 63, McGinlay 88)
Motherwell 2 (Spencer 70, 89) Att: 11,000

Rangers 1 (Albertz 56)
Kilmarnock 0 Att: 47,169

Sunday, December 12

Dundee Utd 1 (Ferraz 89)
Dundee 0 Att: 9,815

Saturday, December 18

Celtic 4 (Blinker 47, Viduka 50, Moravcik 61, Burchill 89)
Dundee Utd 1 (Ferraz 26) Att: 59,120

Kilmarnock 1 (Wright 49)
St Johnstone 2 (McBride 16, O'Neil 28) Att: 6,002

Motherwell 1 (Freeman 88)
Rangers 5 (Kanchelskis 25, 57, Amoruso 34, Dodds 45, 49) Att: 13,102

Sunday, December 19

Hearts 0
Hibernian 3 (Lehmann 18, Sauzee 26, Miller 89) Att: 17,954

Wednesday, December 22

Rangers 1 (Albertz 90)
Hearts 0 Att: 49,907

Monday, December 27

Aberdeen 3 (Zerouali 45, Belabed 74, Stavrum pen 89)
Dundee Utd 1 (Hannah 26) Att: 16,686

Celtic 1 (Viduka 18)
Rangers 1 (Dodds 27) Att: 59,722

Dundee 1 (Falconer 77)
St Johnstone 1 (Lowndes 43) Att: 6,323

Hibernian 2 (Paatelainen 74, Miller 89)
Kilmarnock 2 (Smith 16, Cocard pen 20) Att: 12,048

SCOTLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rangers	17	14	2	1	45	14	44
Celtic	18	13	1	4	53	16	40
Dundee Utd	19	9	3	7	25	29	30
Motherwell	17	7	6	4	28	30	27
Hibernian	20	6	7	7	32	35	25
Hearts	18	5	5	8	26	28	20
St Johnstone	18	5	5	8	18	23	20
Dundee	17	6	1	10	21	28	19
Kilmarnock	18	2	7	9	18	28	13
Aberdeen	18	3	3	12	20	55	12

SPAIN

Saturday, December 11

Sevilla 3 (Juan Carlos 11, 79, Victor 88)
Barcelona 2 (Dani 29, Luis Enrique 59) Att: 40,000

Sunday, December 12

Alaves 2 (Kodro 22, Javi Moreno pen 45)
Betis Sevilla 0 Att: 18,000

Atletico Madrid 1 (Hasselbaink 26)
Valencia 2 (Mendieta 16, Sanchez 53) Att: 30,000

Celta Vigo 1 (Turdo 42)
Athletic Bilbao 1 (Ezquerro 79) Att: 23,000

Espanyol 1 (Galca pen 44)
Valladolid 1 (Rodrigo 88) Att: 17,300

Mallorca 1 (Diego Tristan 67)
Oviedo 1 (Dely Valdes 62) Att: 17,000

Racing Santander 1 (Vivar Dorado 82)
Real Madrid 1 (Raul 24) Att: 15,000

Rayo Vallecano 4 (Bolo 19, Hernandez 37, Llorens 80, Canabal 82)
Malaga 1 (Catanha 26) Att: 7,500

Real Sociedad 0
La Coruna 1 (Guerrero og 36) Att: 22,000

Zaragoza 3 (Yordi 43, 68, Vellisca 79)
Numancia 3 (Ruben Navarro 28, 73, Barbu 49) Att: 31,000

Saturday, December 18

La Coruna 1 (Turu Flores 65)
Celta Vigo 0 Att: 35,000

Real Madrid 2 (Raul 43, Hierro 54)
Espanyol 1 (Benitez 25) Att: 40,000

Valladolid 1 (Rodrigo 69)
Alaves 1 (Contra 20) Att: 14,000

Sunday, December 19

Athletic Bilbao 2 (Ezquerro 13, Lacruz 37)
Zaragoza 2 (Vellisca 32, Milosevic pen 34) Att: 30,000

Barcelona 2 (Luis Enrique 35, Zenden 80)
Atletico Madrid 1 (Hasselbaink pen 44) Att: 60,000

Betis Sevilla 1 (Finidi 63)
Mallorca 0 Att: 45,000

Malaga 0
Real Sociedad 0 Att: 25,000

Numancia 2 (Pacheta 3, Barbu 52)
Racing Santander 1 (Rushfeldt 90) Att: 7,000

Oviedo 4 (Onopko 32, Ivan Iglesias 60, Dely Valdes 74, Jaime 89)
Sevilla 2 (Juan Carlos 28, 72) Att: 11,000

Valencia 3 (Sanchez 13, 81, Mendieta 90)
Rayo Vallecano 1 (Luis Cembranos 69) Att: 40,000

Tuesday, December 21

Alaves 1 (Morales 89)
Real Madrid 3 (Hierro 38, Guti 78, Raul 86) Att: 18,000

Wednesday, December 22

Atletico Madrid 5 (Valeron 2, Ayala 10, Hasselbaink 44, 70, Correa 61)
Oviedo 0 Att: 20,000

Betis Sevilla 0
Valladolid 1 (Caminero 75) Att: 35,000

Celta Vigo 2 (Karpin pen 35, Revivo 66)
Malaga 4 (Catanha 17, 83, 87, Rufete 56) Att: 18,000

Espanyol 3 (Velamazan 53, Serrano 56, 90)
Numancia 1 (Ruben Navarro 52) Att: 10,000

Mallorca 3 (Prieto og 75, Carreras 78, Ibagaza 87)
Sevilla 1 (Zalayeta 88) Att: 8,000

Racing Santander 2 (Salva pen 34, Amavisca 68)
Athletic Bilbao 2 (J Etxeberria 37, Guerrero 84) Att: 14,000

Rayo Vallecano 1 (Luis Cembranos 24)
Barcelona 1 (Simao 55) Att: 10,000

Real Sociedad 0
Valencia 0 Att: 18,000

Zaragoza 2 (Milosevic 18, Juanele 55)
La Coruna 1 (Turu Flores 74) Att: 28,000

Tuesday, January 4

Valencia 1 (Gerard 7)
Celta Vigo 1 (Velasco 50) Att: 40,000

Wednesday, January 5

Athletic Bilbao 2 (Larrainzar 39, Larrazabal pen 54)
Espanyol 1 (Serrano 37) Att: 31,000

Barcelona 3 (Figo 26, 64, Litmanen 37)
Real Sociedad 1 (Idiakez 90) Att: 40,000

La Coruna 0
Racing Santander 3 (Salva 13, 48, Munitis 58) Att: 23,000

Malaga 0
Zaragoza 0 Att: 20,000

Mallorca 0
Valladolid 0 Att: 14,000

Numancia 0
Alaves 0 Att: 7,000

Oviedo 2 (Losada 8, Ivan Iglesias 90)
Rayo Vallecano 0 Att: 9,514

Sevilla 2 (Juan Carlos 25, Zalayeta 34)
Atletico Madrid 1 (Hasselbaink 72) Att: 25,000

SPAIN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
La Coruna	18	11	3	4	33	22	36
Zaragoza	18	8	7	3	32	18	31
Barcelona	18	9	3	6	39	27	30
Celta Vigo	18	9	2	7	25	22	29
Valencia	18	7	5	6	24	17	26
Mallorca	18	7	5	6	25	23	26
Athletic Bilbao	18	6	8	4	27	27	26
Alaves	18	7	5	6	21	21	26
Rayo Vallecano	18	8	2	8	26	27	26
Numancia	18	6	6	6	26	30	24
Real Madrid	17	5	8	4	29	29	23
Betis Sevilla	17	7	2	8	16	27	23
Racing Santander	18	5	7	6	29	27	22
Espanyol	18	6	4	8	29	29	22
Malaga	18	5	6	7	28	29	21
Valladolid	18	5	6	7	16	23	21
Atletico Madrid	18	6	2	10	30	33	20
Oviedo	18	5	5	8	18	29	20
Real Sociedad	18	4	7	7	20	24	19
Sevilla	18	3	7	8	21	30	16

SPANISH CUP – 2ND RND

2nd legs
Dec 1: Malaga 2 Alzira 0
Malaga 2-0 on agg;
Betis Sevilla 2 Bermeo 0
Betis 2-0 on agg;
Numancia 3 Compostela 2
Compostela 6-5 on agg;
Espanyol 2 Cordoba 0
Espanyol 3-1 on agg;
Alaves 1 Extremadura 0
Alaves 2-1 on agg;
Racing Santander 3 Hercules 0
Racing 3-0 on agg;
Real Sociedad 0 Logrones 1
Logrones 3-1 on agg;
Oviedo 2 Lorca 0
Oviedo 3-0 on agg;
Athletic Bilbao 3 Melilla 2
Athletic 5-4 on agg;
Sevilla 1 Osasuna 1
Osasuna 2-1 on agg;
Valladolid 0 Real Union 1
Real Union 2-1 on agg;
Zaragoza 4 Recreativo 0
Zaragoza 4-0 on agg;
Rayo Vallecano 4 Salamanca 2
Rayo 6-4 on agg.

3RD RND

1st legs
Dec 14: La Coruna 1 Malaga 0.
Dec 15: Albacete 0 Espanyol 0;
Almeria 0 Barcelona 0;
Athletic Bilbao 0 Rayo Vallecano 1;
Barakaldo 0 Villarreal 0;
Las Palmas 2 Atletico Madrid 2;
Lleida 0 Eibar 0;
Logrones 3 Oviedo 2;
Merida 1 Betis Sevilla 0;
Osasuna 3 Valencia 0;
Ourense 2 Mallorca 2;
Real Union 1 Alaves 0;
Zaragoza 2 Racing Santander 1;
Sporting Gijon 0 Celta Vigo 3;
Tenerife 2 Compostela 2.

SWITZERLAND

Dec 12: Basle 2 Aarau 1; Grasshopper 2 Lucerne 0; Lugano 1 Delemont 2; Neuchatel Xamax 1 Zurich 1; St Gallen 2 Servette 0; Yverdon 0 Lausanne 0.

SWITZERLAND – 1ST STAGE FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
St Gallen	22	13	6	3	42	25	45
Basle	22	9	10	3	31	21	37
Lausanne	22	9	9	4	35	25	36
Grasshopper	22	9	7	6	40	25	34
Yverdon	22	7	9	6	28	25	30
Lucerne	22	8	4	10	28	29	28
Servette	22	8	4	10	32	36	28
Zurich	22	6	9	7	22	27	27
Neuchatel Xamax	22	6	8	8	32	34	26
Aarau	22	7	5	10	30	42	26
Lugano	22	5	6	11	26	34	21
Delemont	22	4	5	13	24	48	17

TURKEY

Dec 10: Adanaspor 3 Denizlispor 2.
Dec 11: Istanbulspor 0 Samsunspor 1; Goztepe 0 Fenerbahce 0.
Dec 12: Bursaspor 4 Erzurum 2; Galatasaray 1 Besiktas 0; Trabzonspor 1 Kocaelispor 0; Ankaragucu 1 Vanspor 0; Gaziantepspor 1 Altay 0; Antalyaspor 2 Genclerbirligi 1.
Dec 17: Samsunspor 1 Fenerbahce 1.
Dec 18: Ankaragucu 3 Kocaelispor 2; Denizlispor 2 Galatasaray 4.
Dec 19: Genclerbirligi 1 Bursaspor 0; Vanspor 0 Adanaspor 2; Erzurum 0 Goztepe 0; Istanbulspor 1 Gaziantepspor 1; Altay 3 Trabzonspor 1; Besiktas 4 Antalyaspor 0.
Dec 22: Fenerbahce 1 Galatasaray 2.
Dec 24: Bursaspor 0 Besiktas 1.
Dec 25: Ankaragucu 3 Altay 0; Fenerbahce 2 Erzurum 0; Adanaspor 3 Kocaelispor 0; Antalyaspor 2 Denizlispor 2.
Dec 26: Goztepe 3 Genclerbirligi 2; Trabzonspor 1 Istanbulspor 1; Gaziantepspor 5 Samsunspor 2; Galatasaray 2 Vanspor 1.

TURKEY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Galatasaray	14	11	2	1	31	12	35
Gaziantepspor	14	8	3	3	22	11	28
Besiktas	14	7	4	3	26	9	25
Fenerbahce	14	6	6	2	24	14	24
Denizlispor	14	6	5	3	23	19	23
Trabzonspor	14	5	5	4	19	16	20
Samsunspor	14	6	2	6	20	20	20
Altay	14	5	4	5	18	15	19
Istanbulspor	14	4	6	4	16	16	18
Adanaspor	14	5	3	6	21	22	18
Genclerbirligi	14	5	3	6	16	20	18
Ankaragucu	14	5	3	6	17	23	18
Antalyaspor	14	5	3	6	17	27	18
Goztepe	14	4	5	5	12	16	17
Erzurum	14	4	3	7	18	26	15
Bursaspor	14	2	4	8	13	20	10
Vanspor	14	2	4	8	13	24	10
Kocaelispor	14	2	3	9	14	30	9

YUGOSLAVIA

Dec 11: Borac 1 Sartid 0; Red Star 2 Mogren 0; Zeleznik 0 Obilic 3; Zemun 1 Hajduk K 1; Buducnost 4 Vojvodina 0; Rad 2 Proleter 2; OFK 2 Hajduk B 1; Radnicki K 1 Cukaricki 3; Spartak 0 Partizan 6; Radnicki N 2 Sutjeska 0.
Dec 15: Partizan 5 Radnicki N 2; Cukaricki 2 Spartak 1; Hajduk B 2 Radnicki K 1; Proleter 2 OFK 1; Vojvodina 3 Rad 2; Obilic 1 Zemun 0; Mogren 2 Zeleznik 1; Sartid 1 Red Star 2; Milicionar 7 Borac 4; Hajduk K 0 Buducnost 3.
Dec 18: Red Star 3 Milicionar 2; Zemun 2 Mogren 0; Buducnost 0 Obilic 2; OFK 2 Vojvodina 0; Radnicki K 0 Proleter 0; Spartak 2 Hajduk B 0; Radnicki N 3 Cukaricki 0; Sutjeska 2 Partizan 2.
Dec 19: Zeleznik 1 Sartid 0; Rad 2 Hajduk K 0.

YUGOSLAVIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Obilic	20	17	2	1	39	12	53
Partizan	20	16	3	1	49	17	51
Red Star	20	14	5	1	45	13	47
Milicionar	20	9	4	7	32	25	31
Rad	20	8	6	6	31	25	30
Zeleznik	20	8	5	7	25	21	29
Sutjeska	20	8	4	8	28	33	28
Buducnost	19	8	3	8	23	21	27
OFK	20	7	6	7	29	31	27
Vojvodina	20	8	2	10	27	27	26
Radnicki K	20	7	5	8	19	25	26
Cukaricki	19	7	4	8	21	24	25
Zemun	20	7	4	9	27	34	25
Radnicki N	20	7	2	11	26	30	23
Hajduk K	20	6	5	9	17	21	23
Proleter	20	5	8	7	17	22	23
Hajduk B	20	7	2	11	31	39	23
Mogren	20	6	4	10	18	33	22
Spartak	20	4	5	11	13	33	17
Sartid	20	4	4	12	18	29	16
Borac	20	3	3	14	25	45	12

SOUTH AMERICA

MERCOSUR CUP

SEMI-FINALS – 1ST LEGS

Nov 18 - Buenos Aires
San Lorenzo (Arg) 1 (Cordoba pen 57)
Palmeiras (Bra) 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Sanchez (Chl)

Nov 24 - Rio de Janeiro
Flamengo (Bra) 3 (Leandro Machado pen 29, Maurinho 44, Le 81)
Penarol (Uru) 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Aquino (Par)

SEMI-FINALS – 2ND LEGS

Dec 7 - Sao Paulo
Palmeiras 3 (Junior Baiano 3, Arce 74, pen 90)
San Lorenzo 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 23,000. **Ref:** Mendez (Uru)
Palmeiras 3-1 on agg

Dec 9 - Montevideo
Penarol 3 (Bengoechea 45, pen 86, M Garcia 79)
Flamengo 2 (Ahirson pen 70, Reinaldo 76)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Gamboa (Chl)
Flamengo 5-3 on agg

FINAL – 1ST LEG

Dec 16 - Rio de Janeiro
Flamengo 4 (Juan 6, Caio 70, 75, Reinaldo 85)
Palmeiras 3 (Junior Baiano 43, Asprilla 68, Paulo Nunes 73)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** De Souza (Bra)
Flamengo: Clemer, Maurinho, Juan, Celio Silva, Athirson, Leandro Avila, Marcelo (Rodrigo Mendes 64), Iranildo (Caio 46), Leonardo, Leandro Machado, Reinaldo.
Palmeiras: Marcos, Francisco Arce, Junior Baiano, Galeano, Junior, Cesar Sampaio (Edmilson 85), Rogerio, Zinho, Alex (Euller 55), F Asprilla (Jackson 82), Paulo Nunes.

FINAL – 2ND LEG

Dec 22 - Sao Paulo
Palmeiras 3 (Arce pen 20, 62, Paulo Nunes 66)
Flamengo 3 (Caio 46, Mendes 58, Le 83)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 80,000. **Ref:** Almeida (Bra)
Palmeiras: Marcos, Arce, Junior Baiano, Cleber, Junior, Cesar Sampaio (Edmilson 85), Euller (Oseas 79), Zinho, Alex, Paulo Nunes (Rogerio 73), F Asprilla.
Flamengo: Clemer, Maurinho, Celio Silva, Juan, Athirson, Leandro Avila, Marcelo (Le 76), Caio (Iranildo 79), Leandro Machado, Leonardo (Rodrigo Mendes 46), Reinaldo.
Flamengo 7-6 on agg

MERCONORTE CUP

Group C

Nov 24 - Lima
Sporting Cristal (Per) 2 (Charun 43, Holsen 55)
Caracas (Ven) 3 (J Garcia 9, 48, Arango 67)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Ruiz (Col)

Nov 25 - Guayaquil
Emelec (Ecu) 2 (Intriago 2, Tenorio 77)
Independiente Santa Fe (Col) 1 (Hernandez 28)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Ortube (Bol)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Indep Santa Fe	6	4	1	1	10	3	13
Caracas	6	4	0	2	9	8	12
Emelec	6	3	0	3	9	9	9
Sporting Cristal	6	0	1	5	7	15	1

Independiente qualified as group winners, Caracas as best second-placed finisher from the three groups.

SEMI-FINALS – 1ST LEGS

Dec 1 - Cali
America (Col) 3 (Julian Tellez 3)
Alianza Lima (Per) 1 (Chiquinho)
Ref: Solorzano (Ven)

Dec 2 - Caracas
Caracas 1 (Juan Garcia 67)
Independiente Santa Fe 1 (Cano 61)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Arana (Per)

SEMI-FINALS – 2ND LEGS

Dec 8 - Lima
Alianza Lima 2 (Llanos 75, Baylon 80)
America 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** Ortube (Bol)
Agg 3-3 . America 4-3 on pens

Dec 9 - Bogota
Independiente Santa Fe 1 (Diaz 86)
Caracas 1 (J Garcia 49)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 5,000
Agg 2-2. Independiente 4-2 on pens

FINAL – 1ST LEG

Dec 15 - Cali
America 1 (Perez 12)
Independiente Santa Fe 2 (Hernandez 77, Moreno 82)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 7,000. **Ref:** Cervantes (Col)
America: Robinson Zapata, Diego Bonilla, Victor Murillo, Francisco Moreno, Kilian Virviescas, Carlos Gutierrez, William Zapata (Alex Perafan 46), Luis Valencia (Wilson Perez 85), Mauricio Romero, Nilson Perez, Leonardo Moreno (Hector Moreno 63).
Independiente: Agustin Julio, Ivan Lopez, Adelmo Vallecilla, Hilario Cuenu, Edison Gonzalez (Luis Moreno Murill 46), Juan Espana (Ivan Velazquez 89), Emir Gonzalez (David Hernandez 54), Luis Garcia, Aldo Ramirez, Wilson Cano, Jeffrey Diaz.

CONMEBOL CUP

SEMI-FINALS – 2ND LEGS

Nov 24: Alagoano (Bra) 2 Sao Raimundo (Bra) 1 *Agg 2-2. Alagoano 5-4 on pens*; Dep Concepcion (Chl) 1 Talleres Cordoba (Arg) 1 *Talleres 3-2 on agg.*

FINAL

Dec 1: Alagoano 4 Talleres Cordoba 2.
Dec 8: Talleres Cordoba 3 Alagoano 0.
Talleres 5-4 on agg

ARGENTINA

November 26-29

Argentinos Juniors 0
San Lorenzo 0

Belgrano Cordoba 2 (Sosa 41, Montenegro 49)
Colon Santa Fe 0

Estudiantes 2 (Farias 35, Agoglia 40)
Boca Juniors 2 (Barijho 5, Bermudez 78)

Gimnasia J 4 (M Lobo 14, Garnier 34, Juarez pen 18, Herrera 67)
Chacarita Juniors 3 (A Rodriguez 20, 45, R Capria 49)

Independiente 0
Rosario Central 1 (E Gonzalez 6)

Lanus 3 (J Soto 18, 67, Klimowicz 78)
Instituto Cordoba 1 (Jimenez 44)

Newell's Old Boys 3 (Real 56, Cejas 73, Paris 79)
Talleres Cordoba 1 (Oliva 69)

River Plate 1 (Escudero 22)
Racing Club 0

Union Santa Fe 3 (Vega 2, Domizi 22, Noriega 39)
Gimnasia LP 3 (Gatti 28, 63, Sava 52)

Velez Sarsfield 6 (Obolo 12, 79, Chilavert pen 45, pen 75, pen 82, Ramirez 90)
Ferro Carril Oeste 1 (Sartori 67)

December 3-6

Boca Juniors 1 (Barijho 22)
Gimnasia LP 0

Chacarita Juniors 4 (Rosada 2, Schiavi pen 11, Trotta og 86, Muller 90)
River Plate 4 (Aimar 5, Angel 8, Placente 57, V Zapata 81)

Colon Santa Fe 1 (Morant 50)
Independiente 2 (Graf 72, Cambiaso 76)

Estudiantes 5 (Agoglia 28, 38, Brown pen 44, Piersimone 49, Farias 63)
Belgrano Cordoba 1 (Sosa 21, Jaras 89)

Ferro Carril Oeste 2 (Sartori 3, S Rodriguez 81)
Gimnasia J 2 (M Lobo 21, 53)

Instituto Cordoba 0
Argentinos Juniors 0

Racing Club 1 (Fuentes og 56)
Newell's Old Boys 1 (Real 69)

Rosario Central 2 (Maceratesi 20, Pizzi 70)
Lanus 1 (Vilallonga 67)

San Lorenzo 2 (Ervitti 44, Filomeno 87)
Velez Sarsfield 0

Talleres Cordoba 2 (Marzo 2, Pronetto 26)
Union Santa Fe 3 (M Zapata 21, Cabrol pen 26, Domizi 74)

December 10-13

Argentinos Juniors 1 (Osorio 72)
Rosario Central 2 (Pierucci 23, 33)

Belgrano Cordoba 1 (J Lujambio 56)
Boca Juniors 5 (Barijho 25, 29, Arruabarrena 68, Guillermo Barros Schelotto 70, Riquelme 74)

Gimnasia J 0
San Lorenzo 0

Gimnasia LP 4 (Messera 9, 45, Sava 27, Alonso pen 61)
Talleres Cordoba 5 (Roth 3, Aguilar 33, Silva 51, Diaz 65, Astudillo pen 90)

Independiente 0
Estudiantes 0

Lanus 0
Colon Santa Fe 1 (Biaggio 60)

Newell's Old Boys 4 (Quintana 6, 88, Cejas pen 35, Vojvoda 90)
Chacarita Juniors 1 (Muller 48)

River Plate 4 (Saviola 28, 34, Angel 50, 75)
Ferro Carril Oeste 1 (Ascensio 90)

Union Santa Fe 3 (Paz 27, Domizi 32, Parreto 90)
Racing Club 3 (Peralta 25, Zanetti 42, Batista 44)

Velez Sarsfield 0
Instituto Cordoba 1 (D Jimenez 89)

December 17-20

Belgrano Cordoba 2 (Montenegro 36, 61)
Independiente 3 (Graf 73, Pena 76, Forlan 79)

Boca Juniors 0
Talleres Cordoba 0

Chacarita Juniors 1 (R Capria 81)
Union Santa Fe 1 (Domizi 21)

Colon Santa Fe 1 (Toresani 49)
Argentinos Juniors 2 (Osorio 12, Cervera 90)

Estudiantes 3 (Quatrocchi 12, Farias 43, 53)
Lanus 2 (M Fernandez 15, Klimowicz 36)

Ferro Carril Oeste 2 (Rodriguez 76, Gamboa og 61)
Newell's Old Boys 4 (Gamboa 32, Real 49, 54, Cobelli 90)

Instituto Cordoba 3 (Corti 3)
Gimnasia J 1 (Juarez)

Racing Club 3 (Liendo 44, Delgado 47, 83)
Gimnasia LP 1 (Cufre pen 2)

Rosario Central 1 (Cuberas 15)
Velez Sarsfield 0

San Lorenzo 2 (Romeo 82, pen 90)
River Plate 2 (Pereyra 39, Saviola pen 50)

OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
River Plate	19	13	5	1	45	21	44
Rosario Central	19	14	1	4	34	18	43
Boca Juniors	19	12	5	2	36	15	41
San Lorenzo	19	10	6	3	30	15	36
Talleres Cordoba	19	9	4	6	38	31	31
Racing Club	19	7	9	3	27	22	30
Velez Sarsfield*/**	18	8	5	5	26	15	26
Independiente	19	6	7	6	19	21	25
Chacarita Juniors*	18	6	6	6	36	31	24
Estudiantes	19	6	5	8	29	33	23
Lanus	19	7	2	10	23	30	23
Gimnasia LP	19	4	9	6	28	28	21
Newell's Old Boys	19	5	6	8	26	27	21
Argentinos Juniors	19	4	9	6	20	22	21
Union Santa Fe	19	5	6	8	24	30	21
Belgrano Cordoba	19	5	5	9	25	37	20
Instituto Cordoba**	19	5	7	7	23	30	19
Colon Santa Fe	19	5	4	10	20	28	19
Gimnasia J	19	2	3	14	17	43	9
Ferro Carril Oeste	19	1	6	12	14	43	9

**Suspended match pending FA resolution.*
***Three points deducted for crowd trouble.*

BOLIVIA

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY-OFFS

Dec 12: Blooming 1 The Strongest 1; Bolivar 2 Independiente 0; Real Potosi 1 Union Central 1.

PLAY-OFFS – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
The Strongest	10	6	3	1	17	10	21
Bolivar	10	6	1	3	15	4	19
Blooming	10	5	1	4	17	13	16
Union Central	10	5	1	4	13	15	16
Real Potosi	10	2	2	6	8	16	8
Independiente	10	1	2	7	12	24	5

The Strongest qualified to meet opening champions Blooming for overall title.

CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY-OFF

1st leg - Dec 15
The Strongest 2 (V Gonzales, A Pena)
Blooming 3 (R Justiniano 2, R Ribera)

2nd leg - Dec 19
Blooming 3 (V Antelo, L Gutierrez, M Menacho)
The Strongest 2 (R Arana, S Coelho)
Blooming 6-4 on agg

BRAZIL

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY-OFFS – FINAL

(best of three legs)

1st leg - Dec 12
Atletico MG 3 (Guilherme 1, 28, 43)
Corinthians 2 (Vampeta 39, Luizao 69)

2nd leg - Dec 19
Corinthians 2 (Luizao 29, 59)
Atletico MG 0

3rd leg - Dec 22
Corinthians 0
Atletico MG 0
One leg each. Corinthians won on goal difference.

CHILE

CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY-OFFS

Dec 9: Palestino 1 Audax Italiano 2; Santiago Morning 2 U Catolica 3; Colo Colo 1 Huachipato 1; Cobreloa 1 U de Chile 1.
Dec 15: U de Chile 0 Colo Colo 3; U Catolica 3 Cobreloa 1; Huachipato 3 Palestino 2; Audax Italiano 2 Santiago Morning 1.

CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY-OFFS – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
U de Chile	14	8	4	2	90	43	47 [19]
U Catolica	14	8	4	2	102	50	44 [16]
Cobreloa	14	8	2	4	94	49	40 [14]
Colo Colo	14	5	3	6	62	57	30 [12]
Santiago Morning	14	3	6	5	65	66	25 [10]
Palestino	14	4	3	7	73	88	25 [10]
Audax Italiano	14	3	4	7	59	60	23 [10]
Huachipato	14	2	4	8	62	79	20 [10]

Top three qualify for Libertadores Cup. Points total includes a quarter of the points (shown in brackets) won during regular season. For and against totals include tallies from the regular season.

COLOMBIA

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP – FINAL

1st leg - Dec 8
Independiente Medellin 0
Atletico Nacional 0

2nd leg - Dec 12
Atletico Nacional 1 (Ortegon 48)
Independiente Medellin 0
At Nacional 1-0 on agg. They qualified for overall title play-off against opening champions, America.

CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL

1st leg - Dec 16
America 1 (Castillo 34)
Atletico Nacional 1 (McKenzie 87)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 31,395

2nd leg - Dec 19
Atletico Nacional 0
America 0
Att: 41,568. **Ref:** Russi
Agg 1-1. At Nacional 4-2 on pens

ECUADOR

CHAMPIONSHIP – FINAL

Dec 12: LDU Quito 1 El Nacional 0.
Dec 19: El Nacional 1 LDU 3.
LDU Quito 4-1 on agg

PERU

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

Dec 8: Sporting Cristal 3 Melgar 2; Juan Aurich 3 Alianza Atletico 1.
Dec 11: Universitario 1 Dep Municipal 0; Alianza Lima 2 Cienciano 1.
Dec 12: IMI Talara 0 Sport Boys 0; Union Minas 4 Dep Pesquero 0.

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Alianza Lima	22	14	5	3	47	18	47
Universitario	22	12	6	4	44	24	42
Sport Boys	22	11	6	5	32	25	39
Sporting Cristal	22	11	5	6	46	31	38
Melgar	22	11	3	8	44	30	36
Union Minas	22	7	7	8	43	39	28
Alianza Atletico	22	7	6	9	36	28	27
Cienciano	22	6	9	7	27	25	27
Juan Aurich	22	8	3	11	26	32	27
Dep Pesquero	22	4	8	10	17	38	20
Dep Municipal	22	5	3	14	20	54	18
IMI Talara	22	1	7	14	12	52	10

Alianza qualified to meet opening champions Universitario in the Championship Play-Off

CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY-OFF

1st leg - Dec 15
Universitario 3 (Esidio, Farfan, Del Solar)
Alianza Lima 0

2nd leg - Dec 20
Alianza Lima 1 (Mafla)
Universitario 0
Universitario 3-1 on agg

VENEZUELA

OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP

Dec 12: Nacional 1 Zulianos 4; Llaneros 1 Ital-Chacao 2; Inter El Vigia 2 Carabobo 0; Trujillanos 0 Dep Tachira 1; FCU-ULA 2 Estudiantes 1; Caracas 2 Mineros Guayana 3.
Dec 22: Ital-Chacao 2 Nacional 0; Carabobo 1 Trujillanos 1; Mineros Guayana 2 FCU-ULA 3; Zulianos 5 Inter El Vigia 0; Estudiantes 1 Llaneros 0; Dep Tachira 3 Caracas 1.

VENEZUELA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dep Tachira	22	13	7	2	36	19	46
Estudiantes	22	13	4	5	50	24	43
Ital-Chacao	22	11	8	3	32	18	41
Caracas	21	9	7	5	40	32	34
Mineros Guayana	22	8	6	8	31	33	30
Trujillanos	22	7	8	7	31	28	29
Zulianos	21	7	6	8	34	26	27
FCU-ULA	22	7	6	9	34	37	27
Nacional	22	5	7	10	20	36	22
Inter El Vigia	22	6	4	12	32	51	22
Carabobo	22	4	7	11	23	41	19
Llaneros	22	2	9	11	28	45	15

CENTRAL & NORTH AMERICA

MEXICO

WINTER CHAMPIONSHIP – SEMI-FINALS

1st legs
Dec 8: Pachuca 2 Atlas 0.
Dec 9: Cruz Azul 0 America 0.

2nd legs
Dec 11: Atlas 1 Pachuca 0
Pachuca 2-1 on agg.
Dec 12: America 1 Cruz Azul 2
Cruz Azul 2-1 on agg.

FINAL

1st leg - Dec 16
Pachuca 2 (Glaria 2)
Cruz Azul 2 (Pinheiro, Resondiz)

2nd leg - Dec 19
Cruz Azul 0
Pachuca 1 (Glaria)
Aet. Pachuca 3-2 on agg

AFRICA

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

PRELIMINARY ROUND DRAW

Port Authority (Gam) v LPRC Oilers (Lbr)
Tusker (Ken) v Red Sea (Eri)
SC Villa (Uga) v St George (Eth)
Vital'O (Brd) v Bata Bullets (Mwi)
Dragons l'Oueme (Ben) v Renaissance (Chd)
Sporting Praia Cruz (CVI) v Tempete Mocaf (CAR)
Primeiro Agosto (Ang) v Akonangui (EqG)
Horoya (Gui) v SC Bissau (GuB)
Notwane (Bot) v Black Africa (Nam)
Vacoas (Mrs) v St Michel Utd (Sey)
Fortior (Mad) v Defence Force (Les)
Al Ahli (Lby) v Olympic (Ngr)
Prisons (Tan) v APR FC (Rwa)
First legs Jan 28-30; second legs Feb 11-13

FIRST ROUND DRAW

Raja Casablanca (Mor) v Port Authority or LPRC Oilers
Mouloudia Alger (Alg) v Jeanne d'Arc (Sen)
Al Ahly (Egy) v Tusker or Red Sea
SC Villa or St George v Vital'O or Bata Bullets
Esperance (Tun) v Dragons l'Oueme or Renaissance
ASFA Yennega (BuF) v Djoliba (Mli)

Lobi Stars (Nig) v Sporting Praia Cruz or Tempete Mocaf
V Club (Con) v Primeiro Agosto or Akonangui
Hearts of Oak (Gha) v Horoya or SC Bissau
DC Motema Pembe (DRC) v Notwane or Black Africa
Highlanders (Zim) v Vacoas or St Michel Utd
Sable de Batie (Cam) v FC 105 (Gab)
Stade Tamponnaise (Reu) v Nkana FC (Zam)
Mamelodi Sundowns (SAf) v Fortior or Defence Force
Africa Sports (IvC) v Al Ahli or Olympic
Al Hilal (Sud) v Prisons or APR FC
First legs March 17-19; second legs March 31-April 2

CUP-WINNERS CUP

PRELIMINARY ROUND DRAW

Cotontchad (Chd) v Jeunesse Sportive (Ngr)
Wallidan (Gam) v Mogas '90 (Ben)
Central African Republic representatives v Rayon Sports (Rwa)
FC Djivan (Mad) v Seychelles representatives
Mogoditshane Life Fighters (Bot) v Linare (Les)
Chief Santos (Nam) v Sagrada Esperanca (Ang)
First legs Jan 28-30; second legs Feb 11-13

FIRST ROUND DRAW

Cotontchad or Jeunesse Sportive v USM Alger (Alg)
DR Congo representatives v Stade Malien (Mli)
Tanzania representatives v Zamalek (Egy)
Ethiopia Coffee (Eth) v Telecom Wanderers (Mwi)
Wallidan or Mogas '90 v Club Africain (Tun)
Plateau United (Nig) v Etoile du Congo (Con)
Etoile Filante (BuF) v Royal Armed Forces (Mor)
Central African Republic representatives or Rayon Sports v Gabon representatives
Uganda representatives v Al Merreikh (Sud)
FC Djivan or Seychelles representatives v Reunion representatives
Coastal Stars (Ken) v Cameroon representatives
Mogoditshane Life Fighters or Linare v Zamsure (Zam)
Al Ittihad (Lby) v Accra Great Olympics (Gha)
Mozambique representatives v SuperSport United (SAf)
ASC Ndiambour (Sen) v ASEC Abidjan (IvC)
Chief Santos or Sagrada Esperanca v Agaza Lome (Tog)
First legs Mar 17-19; second legs Mar 31-Apr 2

CAF CUP

PRELIMINARY ROUND DRAW

Aslad Moundou (Chd) v El Nguema (EqG)
First leg Jan 28-30; second leg Feb 11-13

FIRST ROUND DRAW

Ismailia (Egy) v Al Mahalla (Lby)
Hay Al Arab (Sud) v Shabana (Ken)
Mtibwa (Tan) v Mochudi Centre Chiefs (Bot)
Racing Bafoussam (Cam) v TP Mysteres (Con)
Awassa City (Eth) v Mukura Victory (Rwa)
Iwuanyanwu Nationale (Nig) v Gabon representatives
Etoile Sahel (Tun) v Aslad Moundou or El Nguema
Compagnie Sucriere (Sen) v Real Banjul (Gam)
Stade Abidjan (IvC) v Semassi Sokode (Tog)
CA Bizerte (Tun) v USFA (BuF)
JS Kabylie (Alg) v Benin representatives
TP Mazembe (DR Congo) v Academica Progresso (Ang)
Wydad Casablanca (Mor) v St Anthony (Lbr)
USFAS (Mli) v Cape Coast Dwarfs (Gha)
Kaizer Chiefs (SAf) v Mbabane Highlanders (Swa)
Nchanga Rangers (Zam) v DSA (Mad)
First legs Mar 17-19; second legs March 31-Apr 2

COSAFA CASTLE CUP

FIRST ROUND DRAW

Zimbabwe v Lesotho (Mar 4)
Zambia v Botswana (Mar 18)
South Africa v Mauritius (Apr 1)
Malawi v Mozambique (Apr 15)
Single-game ties. Four winners plus best losers qualify for quarter-finals.
Byes: Angola, Namibia, Swaziland

ASIA

CHAMPIONS CUP

SECOND ROUND

WEST ASIA ZONE
1st legs
Nov 16: Al Saad (Qat) 0 Al Hilal (Sau) 1.
Nov 19: Police Club (Irq) 5 Al Wahda (Yem) 0; Irtysh Pavlodar (Kaz) 4 Varzob Dushanbe (Taj) 0.

2nd legs
Dec 3: Al Hilal 2 Al Saad 1 *Al Hilal 3-1 on agg*; Al Wahda 0 Police Club 0 *Police Club 5-0 on agg*; Varzob Dushanbe 0 Irtysh Pavlodar 1 *Irtysh 5-0 on agg.*

EAST ASIA ZONE
1st leg
Nov 21: Singapore Armed Forces 1 Sinthana (Tha) 1.

2nd leg
Dec 4: Sinthana 2 Singapore Armed Forces 1 *Sinthana 3-2 on agg.*

CUP-WINNERS CUP

SECOND ROUND

WEST ASIA ZONE
1st legs
Nov 16: Al Ahly (Sau) 1 Al Jaish (Syr) 0.
Nov 19: Al Zawra (Irq) 5 Al Rayyan (Qat) 2; Kaysar Hurricane (Kaz) 2 Navbahkor Namangan (Uzb) 2.
Nov 26: Al Ittihad (Sau) 1 Esteghlal (Irn) 0.

2nd legs
Dec 3: Al Jaish 0 Al Ahly 2 *Al Ahly 3-0 on agg*; Al Rayyan 2 Al Zawra 0 *Al Zawra 5-4 on agg*; Navbahkor Namangan 1 Kaysar Hurricane 0 *Navbahkor 3-2 on agg*; Esteghlal 1 Al Ittihad 1 *Al Ittihad 2-1 on agg.*

EAST ASIA ZONE
1st leg
Nov 20: Bangkok Bank (Tha) 5 Persebaya Surabaya (Ins) 0.

2nd leg
Dec 4: Persebaya Surabaya 0 Bangkok Bank 1 *Bangkok Bank 6-0 on agg.*

JAPAN

CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY-OFF

1st leg - Dec 4 - Iwata
Jubilo Iwata 2 (Nakayama 30, pen 98)
Shimizu S-Pulse 1 (Sawanobori 34)
Aet. **HT:** 1-1. **90mins:** 1-1

2nd leg - Dec 11 - Shimizu
Shimizu S-Pulse 2 (Sawanobori 35, Fabinho 99)
Jubilo Iwata 1 (Hattori 34)
Aet. **HT:** 1-1. **90mins:** 1-1.
Agg 3-3. Jubilo 4-2 on pens

EMPEROR'S CUP – 3RD ROUND

Dec 12: FC Tokyo 4 Bellmare Hiratsuka 3 (aet); Kashima Antlers 1 Sagan Tosu 0; Nagoya Grampus Eight 4 Sony Sendai 0; Cerezo Osaka 4 Fukuoka University 1; Montedio Yamagata 0 Vissel Kobe 0 (aet - Montedio 4-3 on pens); Urawa Reds 3 Albirex Niigata 1; Kashiwa Reysol 4 Denso 2; Kyoto Purple Sanga 1 Oita Trinita 0; Avispa Fukuoka 1 Consadole Sapporo 0; Sanfrecce Hiroshima 3 Honda 2; Yokohama F Marinos 2 Mito Hollyhock 1; Gamba Osaka 1 Omiya Ardija 0; Kawasaki Frontale 3 JEF United Ichihara 2; Verdy Kawasaki 3 Yokohama FC 2.
Dec 15: Jubilo Iwata 2 Juntendo University 0; Shimizu S-Pulse 2 Senshu University 1.

4TH ROUND

Dec 19: Jubilo Iwata 3 FC Tokyo 0; Nagoya Grampus Eight 2 Kashima Antlers 1; Montedio Yamagata 4 Cerezo Osaka 3 (aet); Kashiwa Reysol 2 Urawa Reds 0; Shimizu S-Pulse 2 Kyoto Purple Sanga 2 (aet - S-Pulse 4-2 on pens); Sanfrecce Hiroshima 2 Avispa Fukuoka 1; Yokohama F Marinos 2 Gamba Osaka 1; Verdy Kawasaki 3 Kawasaki Frontale 1.

REVISED FIXTURES

ENGLAND

Sat, January 15

Arsenal v Sunderland
Chelsea v Leicester
Coventry v Wimbledon
Everton v Tottenham
Middlesbrough v Derby
Sheff Wed v Bradford
Watford v Liverpool
West Ham v Aston Villa
Leeds v Man Utd postponed

Sun, January 16

Newcastle v Southampton (from Jan 15)

Sat, January 22

Aston Villa v Chelsea
Bradford v Watford
Derby v Coventry
Leicester v West Ham
Liverpool v Middlesbrough
Southampton v Everton
Tottenham v Sheff Wed
Wimbledon v Newcastle

Sun, January 23

Sunderland v Leeds (from Jan 22)

Mon, January 24

Man Utd v Arsenal (from Jan 22)

Sat, February 5

Aston Villa v Watford
Bradford v Arsenal
Derby v Sheff Wed
Leicester v Middlesbrough
Liverpool v Leeds
Man Utd v Coventry
Southampton v West Ham
Sunderland v Newcastle
Tottenham v Chelsea

Sun, February 6

Wimbledon v Everton (from Feb 5)

Sat, February 12

Chelsea v Wimbledon
Coventry v Sunderland
Everton v Derby
Leeds v Tottenham
Newcastle v Man Utd
Sheff Wed v Southampton
Watford v Leicester
West Ham v Bradford

Sun, February 13

Arsenal v Liverpool (from Feb 12)

Mon, February 14

Middlesbrough v Aston Villa (from Feb 12)

Sat, February 26

Arsenal v Southampton
Bradford v Aston Villa
Chelsea v Watford
Coventry v Tottenham
Liverpool v Leicester
Middlesbrough v Leeds
Sheff Wed v Newcastle
Sunderland v Derby
West Ham v Everton
Wimbledon v Man Utd

Sat, March 4

Aston Villa v Arsenal
Derby v Wimbledon
Everton v Sheff Wed
Leeds v Coventry
Man Utd v Liverpool
Newcastle v Chelsea
Southampton v Middlesbrough
Tottenham v Bradford
Watford v West Ham

Sun, March 5

Leicester v Sunderland (from Mar 4)

Wed, March 8

West Ham v Southampton (from Aug 25)

Sat, March 11

Aston Villa v Coventry
Bradford v Leeds
Chelsea v Everton
Liverpool v Sunderland
Man Utd v Derby
Middlesbrough v Arsenal
Newcastle v Watford
Sheff Wed v West Ham
Tottenham v Southampton
Wimbledon v Leicester

Sat, March 18

Arsenal v Tottenham
Coventry v Bradford
Derby v Liverpool
Everton v Newcastle
Leeds v Wimbledon
Leicester v Man Utd
Southampton v Aston Villa
Sunderland v Middlesbrough
Watford v Sheff Wed
West Ham v Chelsea

Sat, March 25

Arsenal v Coventry
Aston Villa v Derby
Bradford v Man Utd
Chelsea v Southampton
Leicester v Leeds
Liverpool v Newcastle
Middlesbrough v Sheff Wed
Sunderland v Everton
Watford v Tottenham
West Ham v Wimbledon

Sat, April 1

Coventry v Liverpool
Derby v Leicester
Everton v Watford
Leeds v Chelsea
Man Utd v West Ham
Newcastle v Bradford
Sheff Wed v Aston Villa
Southampton v Sunderland
Tottenham v Middlesbrough
Wimbledon v Arsenal

Sat, April 8

Arsenal v Sheff Wed
Aston Villa v Leeds
Bradford v Southampton
Chelsea v Coventry
Leicester v Everton
Liverpool v Tottenham
Middlesbrough v Man Utd
Sunderland v Wimbledon
Watford v Derby
West Ham v Newcastle

Sat, April 15

Coventry v Middlesbrough
Derby v West Ham
Everton v Bradford
Leeds v Arsenal
Man Utd v Sunderland
Newcastle v Leicester
Sheff Wed v Chelsea
Southampton v Watford
Tottenham v Aston Villa
Wimbledon v Liverpool

Sat, April 22

Aston Villa v Leicester
Bradford v Derby
Chelsea v Middlesbrough
Everton v Liverpool
Newcastle v Leeds
Sheff Wed v Sunderland

Southampton v Man Utd
Tottenham v Wimbledon
Watford v Arsenal
West Ham v Coventry

Mon, April 24

Arsenal v West Ham
Coventry v Everton
Derby v Southampton
Leeds v Watford
Leicester v Tottenham
Liverpool v Aston Villa
Man Utd v Chelsea
Middlesbrough v Newcastle
Sunderland v Bradford
Wimbledon v Sheff Wed

Sat, April 29

Aston Villa v Sunderland
Bradford v Wimbledon
Chelsea v Liverpool
Everton v Arsenal
Newcastle v Coventry
Sheff Wed v Leeds
Southampton v Leicester
Tottenham v Derby
Watford v Man Utd
West Ham v Middlesbrough

Sat, May 6

Arsenal v Chelsea
Coventry v Sheff Wed
Derby v Newcastle
Leeds v Everton
Leicester v Bradford
Liverpool v Southampton
Man Utd v Tottenham
Middlesbrough v Watford
Sunderland v West Ham
Wimbledon v Aston Villa

Sun, May 14

Aston Villa v Man Utd
Bradford v Liverpool
Chelsea v Derby
Everton v Middlesbrough
Newcastle v Arsenal
Sheff Wed v Leicester
Southampton v Wimbledon
Tottenham v Sunderland
Watford v Coventry
West Ham v Leeds

FRANCE

Sat, January 15

Nancy v Bastia
Sedan v Lens
Auxerre v Lyon
Strasbourg v Metz
Monaco v Rennes
Le Havre v Saint-Etienne
Nantes v Troyes

Sun, January 16

Marseille v Montpellier (from Jan 15)
Bordeaux v Paris SG (from Jan 15)

Wed, January 19

Sedan v Le Havre (from Dec 15)
Strasbourg v Troyes (from Dec 15)

Tues, January 25

Troyes v Marseille (from Jan 26)
Metz v Monaco (from Jan 26)

Wed, January 26

Saint-Etienne v Auxerre
Lyon v Bordeaux
Lens v Le Havre
Montpellier v Nancy
Rennes v Nantes
Paris SG v Strasbourg
Bastia v Sedan

Tues, February 1

Auxerre v Bordeaux (from Feb 2)
Monaco v Paris SG (from Feb 2)

Wed, February 2

Le Havre v Bastia
Saint-Etienne v Lens
Strasbourg v Lyon
Nantes v Metz
Sedan v Montpellier
Marseille v Rennes
Nancy v Troyes

Sat, February 5

Lens v Auxerre
Montpellier v Le Havre
Rennes v Nancy
Paris SG v Nantes
Bordeaux v Strasbourg
Troyes v Sedan
Bastia v Saint-Etienne

Sun, February 6

Metz v Marseille (from Feb 5)
Lyon v Monaco (from Feb 5)

Tues, February 15

Marseille v Paris SG (from Feb 16)
Nantes v Lyon (from Feb 16)

Wed, February 16

Lens v Bastia
Monaco v Bordeaux
Nancy v Metz
Saint-Etienne v Montpellier
Sedan v Rennes
Auxerre v Strasbourg
Le Havre v Troyes

Fri, February 25

Bastia v Auxerre
Rennes v Le Havre
Montpellier v Lens
Lyon v Marseille
Strasbourg v Monaco
Paris SG v Nancy
Bordeaux v Nantes
Metz v Sedan
Troyes v Saint-Etienne

Sat, March 11

Marseille v Bordeaux
Nancy v Lyon
Le Havre v Metz
Auxerre v Monaco
Bastia v Montpellier
Sedan v Paris SG
Saint-Etienne v Rennes
Nantes v Strasbourg
Lens v Troyes

Sat, March 25

Montpellier v Auxerre
Troyes v Bastia
Paris SG v Le Havre
Rennes v Lens
Strasbourg v Marseille
Bordeaux v Nancy
Monaco v Nantes
Lyon v Sedan
Metz v Saint-Etienne

Sat, April 8

Sedan v Bordeaux
Le Havre v Lyon
Lens v Metz
Marseille v Monaco
Auxerre v Nantes
Saint-Etienne v Paris SG
Bastia v Rennes
Nancy v Strasbourg
Montpellier v Troyes

Sat, April 15

Troyes v Auxerre
Metz v Bastia
Bordeaux v Le Havre
Paris SG v Lens
Nantes v Marseille
Rennes v Montpellier
Monaco v Nancy
Strasbourg v Sedan
Lyon v Saint-Etienne

Sat, April 29

Saint-Etienne v Bordeaux
Lens v Lyon
Auxerre v Marseille
Montpellier v Metz
Sedan v Monaco
Nancy v Nantes
Bastia v Paris SG
Troyes v Rennes
Le Havre v Strasbourg

Sat, May 13

Lyon v Bastia
Monaco v Le Havre
Bordeaux v Lens
Paris SG v Montpellier
Marseille v Nancy
Auxerre v Rennes
Nantes v Sedan
Strasbourg v Saint-Etienne
Metz v Troyes

Sat, May 20

Nancy v Auxerre
Bastia v Bordeaux
Montpellier v Lyon
Sedan v Marseille
Rennes v Metz
Saint-Etienne v Monaco
Le Havre v Nantes
Troyes v Paris SG
Lens v Strasbourg

GERMANY

Fri, February 4

Hansa Rostock v Hertha (from Feb 5)

Sat, February 5

Dortmund v Kaiserslautern
Werder Bremen v Stuttgart
Freiburg v Ulm
1860 Munich v Wolfsburg
Leverkusen v Duisburg
Bielefeld v Schalke

Sun, February 6

Hamburg v Bayern Munich (from Feb 5)
Unterhaching v Eintracht (from Feb 5)

Tues, February 8

Hertha v Bielefeld (from Feb 9)
Kaiserslautern v Hansa Rostock (from Feb 9)
Schalke v Werder Bremen (from Feb 9)
Ulm v 1860 Munich (from Feb 9)

Wed, February 9

Stuttgart v Hamburg
Eintracht v Freiburg
Duisburg v Unterhaching
Wolfsburg v Dortmund
Bayern Munich v Leverkusen

Fri, February 11

Bielefeld v Kaiserslautern (from Feb 12)
Werder Bremen v Hertha (from Feb 12)

Sat, February 12

Leverkusen v Stuttgart
Dortmund v Ulm
Hansa Rostock v Wolfsburg
Unterhaching v Bayern Munich
Duisburg v Eintracht

Sun, February 13

Hamburg v Schalke (from Feb 12)
1860 Munich v Freiburg (from Feb 12)

Fri, February 18

Hertha v Hamburg (from Feb 19)
Schalke v Leverkusen (from Feb 19)

Sat, February 19

Eintracht v 1860 Munich
Kaiserslautern v Werder Bremen
Stuttgart v Unterhaching
Freiburg v Dortmund
Bayern Munich v Duisburg

Sun, February 20

Ulm v Hansa Rostock (from Feb 19)
Wolfsburg v Bielefeld (from Feb 19)

Friday, February 25

Bielefeld v Ulm (from Feb 26)
Hansa Rostock v Freiburg (from Feb 26)

Sat, February 26

Werder Bremen v Wolfsburg
Hamburg v Kaiserslautern
Leverkusen v Hertha
Duisburg v Stuttgart
Bayern Munich v Eintracht

Sun, February 27

Dortmund v 1860 Munich (from Feb 26)
Unterhaching v Schalke (from Feb 26)

Fri, March 3

Wolfsburg v Hamburg (from Mar 4)
Freiburg v Bielefeld (from Mar 4)

Sat, March 4

Schalke v Duisburg
Hertha v Unterhaching
Stuttgart v Bayern Munich
Kaiserslautern v Leverkusen
1860 Munich v Hansa Rostock

Sun, March 5

Eintracht v Dortmund (from Mar 4)
Ulm v Werder Bremen (from Mar 4)

Fri, March 10

Stuttgart v Eintracht (from Mar 11)
Unterhaching v Kaiserslautern (from Mar 11)

Sat, March 11

Hamburg v Ulm
Duisburg v Hertha
Bielefeld v 1860 Munich
Leverkusen v Wolfsburg
Bayern Munich v Schalke

Sun, March 12

Hansa Rostock v Dortmund (from Mar 11)
Werder Bremen v Freiburg (from Mar 11)

Fri, March 17

Eintracht v Hansa Rostock (from Mar 18)
Wolfsburg v Unterhaching (from Mar 18)

Sat, March 18

Freiburg v Hamburg
Schalke v Stuttgart
Ulm v Leverkusen
Hertha v Bayern Munich
Kaiserslautern v Duisburg

Sun, March 19

Dortmund v Bielefeld (from Mar 18)
1860 Munich v Werder Bremen (from Mar 18)

Fri, March 24

Bielefeld v Hansa Rostock (from Mar 25)
Unterhaching v Ulm (from Mar 25)

Sat, March 25

Stuttgart v Hertha
Hamburg v 1860 Munich
Leverkusen v Freiburg
Duisburg v Wolfsburg
Bayern Munich v Kaiserslautern

Sun, March 26

Werder Bremen v Dortmund (from Mar 25)
Schalke v Eintracht (from Mar 25)

FA Carling Premiership fixtures list reproduced under copyright licence No M.99.004
Copyright © The FA Premier League 1999

Fri, March 31

Freiburg v Unterhaching (from Apr 1)
Ulm v Duisburg (from Apr 1)

Sat, April 1

1860 Munich v Leverkusen
Eintracht v Bielefeld
Wolfsburg v Bayern Munich
Dortmund v Hamburg
Hertha v Schalke

Sun, April 2

Hansa Rostock v Werder Bremen (from Apr 1)
Kaiserslautern v Stuttgart (from Apr 1)

Sat, April 8

Stuttgart v Wolfsburg
Werder Bremen v Bielefeld
Unterhaching v 1860 Munich
Leverkusen v Dortmund
Bayern Munich v Ulm
Hamburg v Hansa Rostock
Schalke v Kaiserslautern
Hertha v Eintracht
Duisburg v Freiburg

Sat, April 15

Dortmund v Unterhaching
Kaiserslautern v Hertha
Ulm v Stuttgart
Freiburg v Bayern Munich
1860 Munich v Duisburg
Hansa Rostock v Leverkusen
Wolfsburg v Schalke
Eintracht v Werder Bremen
Bielefeld v Hamburg

Sat, April 22

Unterhaching v Hansa Rostock
Bayern Munich v 1860 Munich
Stuttgart v Freiburg
Leverkusen v Bielefeld
Kaiserslautern v Eintracht
Hamburg v Werder Bremen
Schalke v Ulm
Hertha v Wolfsburg
Duisburg v Dortmund

Sat, April 29

Bielefeld v Unterhaching
1860 Munich v Stuttgart
Eintracht v Hamburg
Ulm v Hertha
Dortmund v Bayern Munich
Hansa Rostock v Duisburg
Werder Bremen v Leverkusen
Wolfsburg v Kaiserslautern
Freiburg v Schalke

Sat, May 6

Bayern Munich v Hansa Rostock
Schalke v 1860 Munich
Stuttgart v Dortmund
Kaiserslautern v Ulm
Eintracht v Wolfsburg
Unterhaching v Werder Bremen
Duisburg v Bielefeld
Hertha v Freiburg
Hamburg v Leverkusen

Sat, May 13

Hamburg v Unterhaching
Ulm v Wolfsburg
Freiburg v Kaiserslautern
1860 Munich v Hertha
Dortmund v Schalke
Hansa Rostock v Stuttgart
Bielefeld v Bayern Munich
Werder Bremen v Duisburg
Leverkusen v Eintracht

Sat, May 20

Eintracht v Ulm
Duisburg v Hamburg
Bayern Munich v Werder Bremen
Stuttgart v Bielefeld
Schalke v Hansa Rostock
Hertha v Dortmund
Kaiserslautern v 1860 Munich
Wolfsburg v Freiburg
Unterhaching v Leverkusen

SQUAD LISTS 1999-2000

FRANCE

AUXERRE

GOALKEEPERS

1	Fabien COOL	29.09.74
16	Ronan LE CROM	13.07.74

DEFENDERS

12	Eric ASSATI	29.09.74
3	Laurent CIECHELSKI	04.06.71
13	Jean-Sebastien JAURES	30.07.77
15	Frederic JAY	20.09.76
2	Tomasz KLOS (Pol)	07.03.73
4	Cyrille MAGNIER	24.08.69
26	Jean-Joel PERRIER DOUMBE	27.09.78
21	Johan RADET	24.11.76
18	Pedro Antonio REYES (Chl)	13.11.72

MIDFIELDERS

17	Kuami AGBOH	28.12.77
10	Stephane CARNOT	10.07.72
28	Amdy FAYE (Sen)	12.03.77
6	Christian HENNA	10.03.72
14	Cyril JEUNECHAMP	18.12.75
27	Francois SIRIEIX	07.10.80
19	Teemu TAINIO (Fin)	27.11.79

FORWARDS

29	Djibrill CISSE	12.08.81
11	Alexandre COMISETTI (Swi)	21.07.73
24	Lilian COMPAN	30.04.71
22	Arnaud GONZALES	24.08.77
9	Stephane GUIVARC'H	06.09.70
23	Narcisse Olivier KAPO OBOU	27.09.80
20	Guenael LE MAUX	19.01.73
7	Steve MARLET	10.01.74
25	David VANDENBOSSCHE	27.09.80

COACH

Guy ROUX

BASTIA

GOALKEEPERS

16	Ali BOUMNIJEL (Tun)	13.04.66
1	Eric DURAND	13.08.67
30	Nicolas PENNETEAU	28.02.81

DEFENDERS

26	Zoumana CAMARA	03.04.79
5	Christophe DEGUERVILLE	21.06.70
28	Milos DOBRIJEVIC (Yug)	03.04.80
15	Franck JURIETTI	30.03.75
17	Franck MATINGOU	04.12.79
4	Patrick MOREAU	03.11.73
3	Morlaye SOUMAH (Gui)	04.11.71
2	Patrick VALERY	03.07.69

MIDFIELDERS

22	Herve ANZIANI	20.06.76
20	Laurent CASANOVA	28.04.71
10	Yann LACHUER	10.03.72
	David MAZZONCINI	16.10.71
14	Frederic MENDY	29.11.73
6	Lilian NALIS	29.09.71
25	Stephane ODET	26.04.76
7	Piotr SWIERCZEWSKI (Pol)	08.04.72

FORWARDS

11	Pierre-Yves ANDRE	14.05.74
	Samuel DARCHY	30.05.80
21	Cyril EBOKI-POH	11.09.79
19	Pierre LAURENT	13.12.70
9	Frederic NEE	18.04.75
8	Dan PETERSEN (Den)	06.05.72
18	PRINCE DAYE (Lbr)	11.04.78
27	Ousmane SOUMAH (Gui)	06.10.73

COACH

Frederic ANTONETTI

BORDEAUX

GOALKEEPERS

30	Francois DUBOURDEAU	04.12.80
16	Ulrich RAME	19.09.72
1	Teddy RICHERT	21.09.74

DEFENDERS

21	Kodjo AFANOU	21.11.77
24	Herve ALICARTE	07.10.74
5	Jerome BONNISSEL	11.04.73
2	David JEMMALI	13.12.74
23	Pascal PHILIPPE	25.02.76
4	Nisa SAVELJIC (Yug)	27.03.70
3	Victor TORRES MESTRE (Spa)	31.12.70

MIDFIELDERS

20	Laurent BATLLES	23.09.75
22	Giuseppe COLUCCI (Ita)	24.08.80
18	Lassina DIABATE (IvC)	16.09.74
14	Francois GRENET	08.03.75
	Sylvain LEGWINSKI	06.10.73
8	Johan MICOUD	24.07.73
7	Michel PAVON	07.11.68
6	Jean-Christophe ROUVIERE	04.08.74
	Djordje TOMIC (Yug)	11.11.72
10	Stephane ZIANI	09.12.72

FORWARDS

26	Christophe DUGARRY	24.03.72
27	Pascal FEINDOUNO (Gui)	27.02.81
9	Lilian LASLANDES	04.09.71
11	Sylvain WILTORD	10.05.74
19	Marc ZANOTTI	13.11.75

COACH

Elie BAUP

LE HAVRE

GOALKEEPERS

30	Olivier BLONDEL	09.07.79
1	Nicolas DOUCHEZ	22.04.80
16	Sebastien HAMEL	20.11.75

DEFENDERS

4	Gustave BAHOKEN (Cam)	13.06.79
23	Jean-Alain BOUMSONG	14.12.79
5	Mohammed CAMARA (Gui)	25.06.75
2	Eric DELOUMEAUX	12.05.73
21	Souleymane DIAWARA (Sen)	24.12.78
25	Jeremy HENIN	12.11.77
19	Mamar MAMOUNI (Alg)	28.02.76
3	Nicolas WEBER	28.10.70
	Philipe BRINQUIN	02.06.71

MIDFIELDERS

8	Thierry DE NEEF	27.10.66
14	Mickael DEBEVE	01.12.70
10	Karim KERKAR	03.11.77
22	Jean-Michel LESAGE	01.05.77
6	Yazid MANSOURI	25.02.78
12	Yann SOLOY	15.02.70

FORWARDS

13	William CORREA	21.03.80
7	Adnan CUSTOVIC (Yug)	14.04.78
11	Thomas DENIAUD	31.08.71
28	Hamed DIALLO (IvC)	18.12.76
	Christophe HORLAVILLE	01.03.69
9	Cyrille POUGET	06.12.72

COACH

Francis SMERECKI

LENS

GOALKEEPERS

30	Cedric BERTHELIN	25.12.76
16	Sebastien CHABBERT	15.05.78
1	Guillaume WARMUZ	10.08.70

DEFENDERS

19	Patrick BARUL	02.10.77
14	Ferdinand COLY	10.09.73
23	Adama COULIBALY (Mli)	09.10.80
25	Valerien ISMAEL	28.09.75
3	Yoann LACHOR	17.01.76
22	Xavier MERIDE	09.01.75
24	Jose Karl PIERRE-FANFAN	26.07.75
28	Franck QUEUDRUE	27.08.78
2	Eric SIKORA	04.02.68

MIDFIELDERS

5	Jocelyn BLANCHARD	28.05.72
8	Stephane COLLET	13.06.72
26	Charles-Edouard CORIDON	09.04.72
4	Olivier DACOURT	25.09.74
12	Redouanne EL OUARDI (Mor)	13.11.81
10	Daniel MOREIRA	08.08.77
9	Alex NYARKO (Gha)	15.10.73
6	Cyril ROOL	15.04.75

FORWARDS

27	Olivier BOGACZYK	31.07.76
18	Philippe BRUNEL	28.02.73
29	Ludovic DELPORTE	06.02.80
11	Joseph-Desire JOB (Cam)	01.12.77
21	Pascal NOUMA	06.01.72
	Bruno RODRIGUEZ	25.12.72
20	Lamine SAKHO	28.09.77

COACH

Francois BRISSON

LYON

GOALKEEPERS

1	Gregory COUPET	31.12.72
30	Angelo HUGUES	03.09.66
23	Sebastien SOCIE	03.08.76

DEFENDERS

5	Jacek BAK (Pol)	24.03.73
12	Serge BLANC	22.09.72
17	Jeremie BRECHET	14.08.79
3	Patrice CARTERON	30.07.70
2	Jean-Christophe DEVAUX	16.05.75
13	Hubert FOURNIER	03.09.67
4	Florent LAVILLE	07.08.73
24	Cedric URAS	29.11.77

MIDFIELDERS

15	Christophe DELMOTTE	09.06.69
10	Vikash DHORASOO	10.10.73
8	Pierre LAIGLE	12.09.70
22	David LINARES	05.10.75
18	Steed MALBRANQUE	06.01.80
27	Patrice OUERDI	30.09.78
6	Philippe VIOLEAU	19.08.70

FORWARDS

9	Sonny ANDERSON Da Silva (Bra)	19.09.70
14	Alain CAVEGLIA	28.03.68
19	Marco GRASSI (Swi)	08.08.68
20	Frederic KANOUTE	02.09.77
11	Tony VAIRELLES	10.04.73

COACH

Bernard LACOMBE

MARSEILLE

GOALKEEPERS

1	Stephane PORATO	19.09.73
30	Laurent SPINOSI	20.12.69
16	Stephane TREVISAN	01.05.73

DEFENDERS

6	Eduardo BERIZZO (Arg)	13.11.69
2	Patrick BLONDEAU	27.01.68
	Jean-Pierre CYPRIEN (Gdp)	12.02.69
	Franck DUMAS	09.01.68
24	Yannick FISCHER	17.12.74
23	William GALLAS	17.08.77
4	Pierre ISSA (SAf)	11.09.75
5	Lilian MARTIN	28.05.71
20	Richard MARTINI	26.08.78
3	Sebastien PEREZ	24.11.73

MIDFIELDERS

27	Jacques ABARDONADO	27.05.78
14	Djamel BELMADI	27.03.76
8	Frederic BRANDO	22.11.73
12	Stephane DALMAT	16.02.79
10	Ivan DE LA PENA (Spa)	06.05.76
17	Seydou KEITA (Mli)	16.01.80
	Jerome LEROY	04.11.74
26	Peter LUCCIN	09.04.79
18	Daniel MONTENEGRO (Arg)	28.03.79
3	Sebastien PEREZ	24.11.73

FORWARDS

22	Ibrahima BAKAYOKO (IvC)	31.12.76
15	Pablo Ignacio CALANDRIA (Arg)	15.03.82
9	Florian MAURICE	20.01.74
7	Robert PIRES	29.01.73

COACH

Bernard CASONI

METZ

GOALKEEPERS

16	Andre BIANCARELLI	11.03.70
30	Christophe EGGIMANN	23.09.76
1	Lionel LETIZI	28.05.73

DEFENDERS

3	Philippe GAILLOT	28.02.65
5	Sylvain KASTENDEUCH	31.08.63
18	Sylvain MARCHAL	10.02.80
19	Stephane MORISOT	11.01.78
2	Pascal PIERRE	28.05.68
26	David REGIS (USA)	02.12.68
4	Sebastien SCHEMMEL	02.06.75
14	Geoffray TOYES	18.05.73

MIDFIELDERS

7	Ludovic ASUAR	27.10.76
6	Christophe BASTIEN	09.03.76
	Gerald BATICLE	10.09.69
25	Danny BOFFIN (Blg)	10.07.65
10	Frederic MEYRIEU	09.02.68
12	Gregory PROMENT	12.10.78
8	Franck RIZZETTO	29.03.71
13	Gunther VAN HANDENHOVEN (Blg)	16.12.78

FORWARDS

21	Stephane BOULILA	30.12.74
20	Nicolas GOUSSE	02.10.76
27	Jonathan JAGER	25.05.78
15	Nenad JESTROVIC (Yug)	09.05.76
29	Nassredine KRAOUCHE (Alg)	27.08.79
11	Michele PADOVANO (Ita)	28.08.66
22	Arnaud RIBAS	22.08.78
24	Louis SAHA	08.08.78
9	Serguei SKACHENKO (Ukr)	18.11.72

COACH

Joel MULLER

MONACO

GOALKEEPERS

16	Jean-Marie AUBRY	03.04.69
1	Fabien BARTHEZ	28.06.71
30	Tony Mario SILVA	17.05.75

DEFENDERS

5	Philippe CHRISTANVAL	31.08.78
2	Pablo Andres CONTRERAS Fica (Chl)	11.09.78
6	Martin DJETOU	15.12.74
17	Philippe LEONARD (Blg)	14.02.74
4	Rafael MARQUEZ (Mex)	13.02.79
3	Christophe PIGNOL	17.10.69
28	John Arne RIISE (Nor)	24.09.80
27	Julien RODRIGUEZ	11.06.78
19	Willy SAGNOL	18.03.77

MIDFIELDERS

18	Francisco DA COSTA (Por)	01.12.74
25	Salif DIAO (Sen)	10.02.77
21	Pontus FARNERUD (Swe)	04.06.80
10	Marcelo GALLARDO (Arg)	18.01.76
8	Ludovic GIULY	10.07.76
7	Sabri LAMOUCHI	09.11.71
14	Fabien LEFEVRE	14.11.71
26	Japhet N'DORAM (Chd)	27.02.66

FORWARDS

12	Wagneau ELOI	11.09.73
22	Moussa N'DIAYE (Sen)	20.02.79
20	Dado PRSO	05.11.74
11	Marco SIMONE (Ita)	07.01.69
9	David TREZEGUET	15.10.77

COACH

Claude PUEL

MONTPELLIER

GOALKEEPERS

1	Stephane CASSARD	11.11.72
16	Philippe FLUCKLINGER	24.05.63
30	Rudy RIOU	22.01.80
34	Remi VERCOUTRE	26.06.80

DEFENDERS

2	Pascal BAILLS	30.12.64
3	Manuel DOS SANTOS	28.03.74
6	Nenad DZODIC (Yug)	04.01.77
24	Romain FERRIER	24.02.76
12	Gerald FOURNEL	12.04.78
5	Pascal FUGIER	22.09.68
15	Michel RODRIGUEZ	25.11.78
4	Franck SILVESTRE	05.04.67

MIDFIELDERS

14	Cedric BARBOSA	06.03.76
8	Philippe DELAYE	26.06.75
19	Marcel MAHOUVE (Cam)	16.01.73
23	Reynald PEDROS	10.10.70
7	Cyril SERREDSZUM	02.10.71
17	Olivier SORLIN	09.04.79

FORWARDS

	Didier AGATHE	16.08.75
22	Frederic GARNY	13.08.74
18	Eric GUEI (IvC)	28.07.80
11	Patrice LOKO	06.02.70
13	Toifilou MAOULIDA	08.06.79
9	Nicolas OUEDEC	28.10.71
	Didier THIMOTHEE	25.06.70

COACH

Jean-Louis GASSET

NANCY

GOALKEEPERS

16	Gennaro BRACIGLIANO	01.03.80
1	Bertrand LAQUAIT	13.04.77

DEFENDERS

2	Demetrius FERREIRA (Bra)	19.01.74
6	Paul FISCHER	18.09.69
5	Vincent HOGNON	16.08.74
4	Cedric LECLUSE	29.03.72
18	Medhi MENIRI	29.06.77
27	Abdeslam OUADDOU (Mor)	01.11.78
23	Mickael RODRIGUES	29.11.77

MIDFIELDERS

8	Frederic BIANCALANI	21.07.74
10	Said CHIBA (Mor)	28.09.70
3	Laurent MORACCHINI	06.01.68
13	Youssef MOUSTAID	21.08.76
15	Egutu OLISEH (Nig)	18.11.80
17	Abdelnasser OUADAH	13.09.75
22	Julien ROUX	14.04.80
21	Jessy SAVINE	21.01.76
26	Eric SKORA	20.08.81

FORWARDS

24	Jerome BOTTELIN	03.05.78
9	Tony CASCARINO (Ire)	01.09.63
12	Pablo CORREA (Uru)	14.03.67
28	Nicolas FLORENTIN	16.02.78
25	Youssouf HADJI	25.02.80
14	Soufiane KONE	08.06.80
11	Cedric MOURET	26.08.78
7	Olivier RAMBO	08.09.74
19	Samuel WIART	23.06.73
	Jose Alcino Rosa, ZE ALCINO (Bra)	08.06.74

COACH

Laszlo BOLONI

NANTES

GOALKEEPERS

16	Willy GRONDIN	12.10.74
1	Mickael LANDREAU	14.05.79

DEFENDERS

19	Jean-Marc CHANELET	23.07.68
21	Pascal DELHOMMEAU	14.08.78
2	Nestor FABBRI (Arg)	29.04.68
5	Nicolas GILLET	08.11.76
22	John GOPE-FENEPEJ	16.11.78
3	Stephane LIEVRE	03.10.72

MIDFIELDERS

13	Mathieu BERSON	23.02.80
9	Eric CARRIERE	24.05.73
24	Yves DEROFF	29.08.78
20	Charles DEVINEAU	02.08.79
4	Samuel FENILLAT	05.11.78
14	Medhi LEROY	18.04.78
23	Sebastien MACE	23.11.78
6	Salomon OLEMBE (Cam)	08.12.80
12	Sebastien PIOCELLE	10.11.78
15	Nicolas SAVINAUD	20.11.75
10	Antoine SIBIERSKI	05.08.74

FORWARDS

11	Diego BUSTOS (Arg)	24.08.74
8	Frederic DA ROCHA	19.09.74
26	Gaetano GIALLANZA (Ita)	06.06.74
18	Olivier MONTERRUBIO	08.08.76
17	Samba N'DIAYE (Fra/Sen)	30.11.72
25	Patrick SUFFO (Cam)	17.01.78
7	Alioune TOURE	09.09.78

COACH

Raynald DENOUEIX

PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN

GOALKEEPERS

16	Dominique CASAGRANDE	08.05.71
1	Bernard LAMA	07.04.63
30	Laurent QUIEVREUX	10.03.79

DEFENDERS

17	Jimmy ALGERINO	28.10.71
5	CESAR Augusto Belli Michelon (Bra)	16.11.75
2	Fabrice KELBAN	09.10.78
3	Nicolas LASPALLES	27.11.71
14	Francis LLACER	09.09.71
6	Godwin OKPARA (Nig)	20.09.72
25	Gregory PAISLEY	07.05.77
15	Eric RABESANDRATANA	18.09.72

MIDFIELDERS

28	Fabrice ABRIEL	06.07.79
9	Ali BENARBIA	08.10.68
4	Bruno CAROTTI	30.09.72
26	Aliou CISSE	24.03.76
20	Edouard CISSE	30.03.78
23	Pierre DUCROCQ	18.12.76
7	Manuel HELDER (Por)	18.08.72
18	Edwin MURATI (Alb)	12.11.75
10	Augustine OKOCHA (Nig)	14.08.73
22	Igor YANOVSKY (Rus)	03.08.74

FORWARDS

7	CHRISTIAN Correa Dionisio (Bra)	23.04.75
8	Kaba DIAWARA	16.12.75
27	Gael HIROUX	03.08.80
12	Laurent LEROY	16.04.76
24	Mickael MADAR	08.05.68
11	Laurent ROBERT	21.05.75

COACH

Philippe BERGEROO

RENNES

GOALKEEPERS

30	Fabien DEBEC	18.01.76
16	Gregory MALICKI	23.11.73
1	Christophe REVAULT	22.03.72

DEFENDERS

6	Dominique ARRIBAGE	11.05.71
2	Philippe BRINQUIN	02.06.71
13	Lamine DIATTA	02.07.75
3	Jean-Luc DOGON	13.10.67
17	Julien ESCUDE	17.08.79
21	Anthony REVEILLERE	10.11.79
5	Youssef ROSSI (Mor)	28.06.73
14	David SOMMEIL	10.08.74

MIDFIELDERS

25	Christian BASSILA	05.10.77
7	Yoann BIGNE	23.08.77
23	Franck GAVA	03.02.70
	Jocelyn GOURVENNEC	22.03.72
15	Stephane GREGOIRE	02.02.68
8	Christophe LE ROUX	07.03.69

FORWARDS

24	Mickael BAILLY	03.01.78
9	Cedric BARDON	15.10.76
11	El Hadji DIOUF (Sen)	15.01.81
20	Fabrice FERNANDES	29.10.79
19	Benoit LE BRIS	01.12.76
10	Shabani NONDA (Brd)	06.03.77
18	Cyril YAPI	18.02.80

COACH

Paul LE GUEN

SAINT-ETIENNE

GOALKEEPERS

1	Jerome ALONZO	20.11.72
30	Jeremie JANOT	11.10.77
16	Philippe MONTANIER	15.11.64

DEFENDERS

19	David GRONDIN	08.05.80
3	Patrick GUILLOU	16.04.70
23	Stephane HERNANDEZ	24.08.79
6	Bjorn-Tore KVARME (Nor)	17.06.72
5	Gilles LECLERC	10.02.67
25	Lucien METTOMO (Cam)	19.04.77
29	Mickael PONTAL	24.11.79
4	Lionel POTILLON	10.02.74
26	Jean-Guy WALLEMME	10.08.67

MIDFIELDERS

8	Fabien BOUDARENE	05.10.78
20	Bertrand FAYOLLE	15.08.75
7	Kader FERHAOUI (Alg)	29.03.65
17	Tchiressoua GUEL (IvC)	27.12.75
10	Stephane PEDRON	22.02.71
27	Julien SABLE	11.09.80
15	Pape SARR (Sen)	07.12.77

FORWARDS

12	Jose ALOISIO Da Silva (Bra)	27.01.75
14	Loic CHAVERIAT	05.02.77
21	ALEX Dias de Almeida (Bra)	26.05.72
24	Yann DOBO	20.04.78
11	Patrick REVELLES	20.09.68
9	Nestor SUBIAT (Arg)	23.04.66

COACH

Robert NOUZARET

SEDAN

GOALKEEPERS

16	Patrick REGNAULT	31.03.74
1	Nicolas SACHY	23.10.67

DEFENDERS

12	Fabien BRANDES	28.02.72
4	Eddy CAPRON	15.01.71
14	Oumar DIENG	30.12.72
18	Cedric ELZEARD	01.04.75
19	Jerome HENROT	24.06.78
27	Jean-Michel LUCIANI	16.11.74
2	Jean-Louis MONTERO	28.04.71
5	Eduardo OLIVEIRA	28.09.72
3	Luis SATORRA	15.09.69

MIDFIELDERS

6	Madjid ADJAOUD	23.08.71
15	Eric CROSNIER	22.12.72
7	Pierre DEBLOCK	01.05.73
25	Jean-Philippe FAURE	17.11.66
10	Laurent HUARD	26.08.73
17	Stephane LAQUAIT	18.01.73
8	Olivier QUINT	29.11.71

FORWARDS

23	Freddy BOURGEOIS	23.02.77
2	Alex DI ROCCO	30.12.70
20	Cedric MIONNET	08.07.74
11	Pius N'DIEFI (Cam)	05.07.75

COACH

Patrick REMY

STRASBOURG

GOALKEEPERS

16	Thierry DEBES	13.01.74
1	Alexander VENCEL (Slk)	02.03.67

DEFENDERS

17	Gharib AMZINE (Mor)	03.05.73
5	Teddy BERTIN	06.08.69
23	Habib BEYE	19.10.77
14	Pape Malik DIOP (Sen)	29.12.74
24	Gilles DOMORAUD	15.02.79
3	Morten NIELSEN (Den)	14.04.71
2	Pierre NJANKA Beaka (Cam)	15.03.75

MIDFIELDERS

19	Yacine ABDESSADKI	01.01.81
26	Pascal CAMADINI	02.04.72
6	Olivier ECHOUAFNI	13.09.72
8	Diego Hector GARAY (Arg)	01.02.75
4	Brahim HEMDANI	15.03.78
28	Christophe KINET (Blg)	31.12.74
20	Mickael MARSIGLIA	25.12.75
10	Corentin MARTINS	11.07.69
21	Rafik MEZRICHE	06.03.78
15	Joseph NDO (Cam)	28.07.76

FORWARDS

7	Mamadou BAGAYOKO (Mli)	21.05.79
27	Denni CONTEH (Den)	14.08.75
22	Fabrice EHRET	28.09.79
9	Mario HAAS (Aut)	16.03.74
12	Guy LUYINDULA (DRC)	25.05.79
25	Karim MOUZAOUI	20.11.75
18	Lionel ROUXEL	16.08.70
11	David ZITELLI	30.10.68

COACH

Pierre MANKOWSKI

TROYES

GOALKEEPERS

30	Nicolas DEHON	02.04.68
1	Tony HEURTEBIS	15.01.75
16	Laurent WEBER	01.09.72

DEFENDERS

24	Seikou BERTHE	07.10.77
21	Mohamed BRADJA	16.11.69
15	Samba DIAWARA	13.03.78
5	Olivier FUGEN	17.10.70
6	Richard JEZIERSKI	19.04.71
4	Yannick LALISSE	15.12.72
20	Edouard THOMAS	08.09.71

MIDFIELDERS

14	Frederic ADAM	11.08.73
10	Frederic ARPINON	09.05.69
23	David HAMED	02.01.74
12	Didier LANG	15.12.70
25	Loutfi MAHDAOUI	25.02.75
17	Jerome MONIER	04.08.71
7	Emmanuel RIVAL	15.02.71
18	Rafih SAIFI	07.02.75
	Toumy TRABELSI	20.09.79
2	Luciano ZAVAGNO	06.08.77

FORWARDS

	Richard AKIANA	20.09.69
8	Samuel BOUTAL	22.11.69
11	Sladjan DJUKIC	21.12.66
9	Farid GHAZI	16.03.74
22	Samuel LOBE	07.03.67
29	Damlaba MENDY	20.02.76
	Jean-Philippe MOUKOKO	12.09.81
19	Rudy ZEITOUN	14.02.79

COACH

Alain PERRIN

HOLLAND

AJAX

GOALKEEPERS

	Joe DIDULICA (Aus)	14.10.77
1	Fred GRIM	17.08.65
28	Serge VAN DEN BAN	02.02.80

DEFENDERS

17	Christian CHIVU (Rom)	15.10.80
15	Tim DE CLER	08.11.78
31	Mariano JUAN (Arg)	17.05.76
33	Kofi MENSAH	08.05.73
16	John NIEUWENBURG	24.12.78
30	Mitchell PIQUE	20.11.80
20	Tom SIER	01.01.70
2	Ole TOBIASEN (Den)	08.07.75
4	Jan VAN HALST	20.04.69
5	Frank VERLAAT	05.03.68
3	Ferdi VIERKLAU	01.04.73

MIDFIELDERS

22	Jason CULINA (Aus)	05.08.80
35	Dean GORRE	10.09.70
13	Richard KNOPPER	29.08.77
18	John O'BRIEN (USA)	29.08.77
6	Aron WINTER	01.03.67
8	Richard WITSCHGE	20.09.69

FORWARDS

24	Shota ARVELADZE (Geo)	22.02.73
19	Tijjani BABANGIDA (Nig)	25.09.73
29	Kevin BOBSON	13.11.80
14	Daniel Da Cruz Carvalho, DANI (Por)	02.11.76
11	Jesper GRONKJAER (Den)	12.08.77
25	Peter HOEKSTRA	04.04.73
21	Pius IKEDIA (Nig)	11.07.80
10	Brian LAUDRUP (Den)	22.02.69
9	Nikos MACHLAS (Gre)	16.06.73
23	Martijn REUSER	01.02.75
7	WAMBERTO Sousa Campos (Bra)	13.12.74

COACH

Jan WOUTERS

AZ

GOALKEEPERS

Brian JENSEN (Den)	25.06.79
Oscar MOENS	01.04.73

DEFENDERS

Abdelkrim EL HADRIOUI (Mor)	06.03.72
Urvin LEE	18.08.73
Barry OPDAM	27.02.76
Jose Fortes RODRIQUEZ (Spa)	13.03.72
Peter VAN DEN BERG	19.12.71
Peter WIJKER	20.07.71

MIDFIELDERS

Elbekay BOUCHIBA	01.11.78
Michael BUSKERMOLEN	02.03.72
Andres CAREVIC (Arg)	23.12.78
Kenan DURMUSOGLU (Tur)	09.04.73
Miel MANS	22.03.78
Fernando RICKSEN	27.07.76
Hans VAN DER WOUDE	20.10.79
Barry VAN GALEN	04.04.70

FORWARDS

John BOSMAN	01.02.65
Dries BOUSSATTA	23.12.72
Deivision Nascimento Vagner, CANIGIA (Bra)	10.01.79
Youssef FERTOUT (Mor)	07.07.70
Ferdino HERNANDEZ	27.05.71
Max HUIBERTS	17.11.70
John MUTSAERS	15.04.72
Jurriaan ROEDEMA	12.03.80
Robert VAN DER WEERT	15.03.70

COACH

Gerard VAN DER LEM

CAMBUUR

GOALKEEPERS

Wim DE RON	23.08.69
Rob HILBERS	05.04.71
Sierd VAN DER BERG	25.11.68

DEFENDERS

Johan ABMA	05.05.69
Gregg BERHALTER (USA)	01.08.73
Geert-Jelle DE VRIES	06.10.74
Richard ELZINGA	27.07.69
Maickel FERRIER	27.01.76
Robert LOONTJENS	24.08.72
Jan ROELOFSEN	08.12.77
Dominik VERGOOSSEN	20.03.73

MIDFIELDERS

Rob ALFLEN	07.05.68
Peter DE ROO	16.02.70
Yevgeniy LEVCHENKO (Rus)	03.01.78
Mischa ROOK	26.06.73
Dennis SCHARRENBURG	08.09.78
Johan TOLSMA	07.04.79
Sandor VAN DER HEIDE	30.03.78

FORWARDS

Frank BERGHUIS	02.05.67
Raymond DE WAARD	27.03.73
Kenneth GOUDMIJN	04.12.70
Danny MULLER	11.08.69
Robin NELISSE	25.01.78
Twan SCHEEPERS	08.11.71
Richard VAN DER WAL	26.04.78
Leonard VAN UTRECHT	25.02.69

COACH

Gert KRUYS

DE GRAAFSCHAP

GOALKEEPERS

Martijn BESSELINK	03.07.75
Ron OLYSLAGER	01.04.64
Jurgen WEVERS	12.01.79

DEFENDERS

Harald BERENDSEN	10.08.80
Rene BOT	06.11.78
Purrel FRANKEL	08.10.76
Willem HUPKES	19.10.79
Abdul Rahman ISSAH (Gha)	04.11.80
Olaf LINDENBERGH	06.02.74
Michel NOK	13.07.71
Erik REDEKER	20.07.68
Arno SPLINTER	29.08.77
Komi TCHANGAI (Tog)	08.08.78
Jan VREMAN	17.09.65
Ilker ZIVALI	01.08.79

MIDFIELDERS

Dennis DEN TURK	27.06.69
Hazem EMAM (Egy)	10.05.75
Marcel KEIZER	15.01.69
Eli LOUHENAPESSY	14.10.76
Martijn MEERDINK	15.09.76
Rene RABELINK	08.10.79
Janiero Andre SCHNEIDER (Bra)	21.03.80
Sonny SILOOY	31.08.63

FORWARDS

Koen BAAKMAN	29.10.79
Patrik FREDHOLM (Swe)	10.05.78
Jasper KETTING	02.03.77
Michal NEHODA (Cze)	14.11.76
Richard ROELOFSEN	13.07.69
Sanda SANDA (Cam)	09.11.81
Zico TUMBA (DRC)	29.04.77
Rody TURPIJN	25.04.78
Ville VAISANEN (Fin)	01.10.76
Eric VISCAAL	20.03.68

COACH

Rob MacDONALD

DEN BOSCH

GOALKEEPERS

Maikel AERTS	26.06.76
Martijn VAN STRIEN	21.05.79

DEFENDERS

Mark DAMEN	28.01.78
Roel LIEFDEN	19.02.64
Erik MEULENDIJK	29.11.70
Richard STRICKER	03.11.70
Peter UNEKEN	04.02.72
Fred VAN DER HOORN	12.10.63
Menno WILLEMS	10.03.77

MIDFIELDERS

Jan BURG	19.10.80
Patrick DECKERS	09.10.71
Ali FATTOUCHI	01.02.75
Jan MICHELS	08.09.70
Bas PEYS	24.08.77
Michel RIBEIRO (Blg)	29.11.75
Pieter SCHRASSERTBERT	26.09.80
Arnold SCHOLTEN	05.12.62
Roberto VERHAGEN	20.10.72

FORWARDS

Krzysztof BOCIEK (Pol)	30.03.74
Patrick HOBBELEN	26.11.74
Chaly JONES	29.01.77
Rafael LOSADA	23.11.71
Reggi MARTINA	12.12.75
Harry VAN DER LAAN	24.02.64

COACH

Martin KOOPMAN

FEYENOORD

GOALKEEPERS

1	Jurek DUDEK (Pol)	23.03.73
26	Ronald GRAAFLAND	30.04.79
21	Edwin ZOETEBIER	07.05.70

DEFENDERS

25	Mohammed ALLACH	20.09.73
	Patrick ALLOTEY (Gha)	13.09.78
20	Ferry DE HAAN	12.09.72
15	Patricio GRAFF (Arg)	17.11.75
2	Christian GYAN (Gha)	02.11.78
16	Bert KONTERMAN	14.01.71
3	Tomasz RZASA (Pol)	11.03.73
4	Bernard SCHUITEMAN	03.10.73
22	Ulrich VAN GOBBEL	16.01.71
8	Kees VAN WONDEREN	04.01.69

MIDFIELDERS

6	Paul BOSVELT	26.03.70
28	Thomas BUFFEL (Blg)	19.02.81
19	Jan DE VISSER	01.01.68
18	Igor KORNEEV (Rus)	04.09.67
17	Patrick PAAUWE	27.12.75
10	Jon Dahl TOMASSON (Den)	29.08.76
5	Jean-Paul VAN GASTEL	28.04.72

FORWARDS

30	Ellery CAIRO	03.08.78
9	Julio Ricardo CRUZ (Arg)	10.10.74
7	Bonaventure KALOU (IvC)	12.01.78
	Radoslav SAMARDZIC (Yug)	17.01.70
13	Ronildo Pereira de Freitas, TININHO (Bra)	23.10.77
14	Peter VAN VOSSEN	21.04.68
11	Henk VOS	05.06.68

COACH

Leo BEENHAKKER

FORTUNA

GOALKEEPERS

Roger JUFFING	11.05.74
Arno VAN ZWAM	16.09.69
Robert-Jan ZOETMULDER	09.08.72

DEFENDERS

Edwin HERMANS	23.05.74
Kevin HOFLAND	07.06.79
Wim KIEKENS (Blg)	26.02.68
Ivo PFENNINGS	14.06.76
Robert ROEST	30.10.69
Rob SCHULPEN	12.09.80
Dorel ZEGREAN (Rom)	04.12.69

MIDFIELDERS

Brenny EVERS	08.11.78
Francois GESTHUIZEN	18.09.72
Rico GOFFIN	25.02.78
Cliff HAMERS	03.04.81
Marco HEERING	08.05.70
Ruud KOOL	01.11.66
Ohran OZKAYA (Ger)	25.03.78
Jarda PACIOREK (Cze)	11.07.79
Joos VAN BARNEVELD	18.01.82
Joost VOLMER	07.03.74
Andy WRIGHT (Eng)	21.10.78

FORWARDS

Samir AMARI	19.01.80
Dennis GERRITSEN	29.06.71
Ronald HAMMING	09.01.73
Dennis KRIJGSMAN	21.07.72
Rolf LANDERL (Aut)	24.10.75
Cosmin MARIS (Rom)	06.01.75
Georges TYCHON	16.10.80

COACH

Bert VAN MARWIJK

HEERENVEEN

GOALKEEPERS

Barry DITEWIG	14.10.77
Hans VONK (SAf)	30.01.70

DEFENDERS

Florin CONSTANTINOVICI (Rom)	12.02.68
David DAMMAN (Blg)	02.09.76
Gerard DE NOOIJER	04.04.69
Johan HANSMA	11.06.69
Ties HELDENS	01.01.79
Max HOUTTUIN	28.04.78
Tieme KLOMPE	08.04.76
Mile KRSTEV (Mac)	13.05.79
Dumitru MITRITA (Rom)	23.06.71
Godfrey NWANKPA (Nig)	20.12.78
Brian TEVREDEN	17.06.69
Ronnie VENEMA	16.10.74

MIDFIELDERS

Emanuel EBIEDE (Nig)	27.03.76
Jesper HAKANSSON (Den)	14.08.80
Thomas HOLM (Nor)	19.02.81
Allan JEPSEN (Den)	04.07.77
Anthony LURLING	22.04.77
Ronnie PANDER	05.03.77
Arek RADOMSKI (Pol)	27.06.77
Ivan TZVETKOV (Bul)	31.08.79

FORWARDS

Dennis DE NOOIJER	04.04.69
Romano DENNEBOOM	29.01.81
Radu Mugur GUSATU (Rom)	19.08.69
Harris HUIZINGH	10.02.63
Daniel JENSEN (Den)	25.06.79
Mika NURMELA (Fin)	26.12.71
Henry ONWUZURUIKE (Nig)	25.12.79
Boudewijn PAHLPLATZ	15.12.71
Radoslav SAMARDZIC (Yug)	17.10.70
Marc VAN EIJK	05.11.81

COACH

Foppe DE HAAN

MVV

GOALKEEPERS

Danilo GIULIETTI (Blg)	23.11.79
Theo SNELDERS	07.12.63
Hans SPILLMANN	02.06.69

DEFENDERS

Thomas CAERS (Blg)	14.01.73
Rodney FALIX	03.09.74
Roel JANSSEN	29.09.75
Joey KRUYNTJENS	23.09.79
Pim MOONEN	08.06.78
Rick PLUM	12.06.73
Igor TOMASIC (Cro)	14.12.76
Michel VONK	28.10.68
Anton VRIESDE	18.10.68

MIDFIELDERS

Jerry DE JONG	29.08.64
Yvo JOORDENS	10.09.68
Bobby KOCISKI (Swe)	05.01.79
Rob NUYTS (Blg)	26.10.77
Wasiu TAIWO (Nig)	01.10.76
Jack VAESSEN	23.11.76
Dave VAN BOGAERT	29.01.79

FORWARDS

Roberto BLANQUEZ (Blg)	02.09.79
EMERSON Luiz Firmino (Bra)	28.07.73
Davey HEYMANS (Blg)	07.08.78
Husseyin KARAPINAR (Blg)	24.07.77
Edik KORTCHAGIN (Rus)	16.01.79
Kenneth PEREZ (Den)	29.08.74
Oczan SONKAYA	12.04.80

COACH

Wim KOEVERMANS

NEC

GOALKEEPERS

30	Dennis GENTENAAR	30.09.75
1	Bas ROORDA	13.02.73

DEFENDERS

23	Ulrich CRUDEN	06.11.66
12	Hennie DE ROMIJN	23.02.68
21	Roy GROOTAERT	17.11.78
2	Richard GOULOOZE	16.11.67
5	Danny HESP	19.10.69
4	Luuk MAES	05.11.71
16	Mark OOSTERHOF	21.11.71
6	Patrick POTHUIZEN	15.05.72
22	Mark VERHOEVEN	14.10.69

MIDFIELDERS

25	Zoran BOROJEVIC	14.04.78
28	Anthony HUDSON (Eng)	11.03.81
8	Anton JANSSEN	10.08.63
3	Marcel KONING	14.01.75
20	Pavel MIKHALEVICH (Bls)	22.01.74
10	Marchanno SCHULTZ	17.12.72
27	Frits VAN PUTTEN	06.02.80
19	Peter VAN PUTTEN	06.02.80

FORWARDS

15	Jack DE GIER	06.08.68
17	Adilson Ben David DOS SANTOS	15.05.74
7	Bart LATUHERU	08.11.65
11	Maikel RENFURM	08.07.76
14	Rene VAN RIJSWIJK	03.01.71

COACH

Jim CALDERWOOD

PSV

GOALKEEPERS

1	Ivica KRALJ (Yug)	26.03.73
20	Patrick LODEWIJKS	21.02.67
23	Ronald WATERREUS	25.08.70

DEFENDERS

18	Eric ADDO (Gha)	12.11.78
3	Jurgen DIRKX	15.08.75
4	Ernest FABER	25.08.71
5	Jan HEINTZE (Den)	17.08.63
21	Yuri NIKIFOROV (Rus)	16.09.70
2	Andre OOIJER	11.07.74
30	Andrius SKERLA (Lit)	29.04.77
25	Stan VALCKX	20.10.63
16	Chris VAN DER WEERDEN	15.11.72
33	Rob WIELAERT	29.12.78

MIDFIELDERS

34	Igor DEMO (Slk)	18.09.75
15	Robert FUCHS	15.02.75
29	Georgi GAKHOKIDZE (Geo)	05.11.75
28	Tomasz IWAN (Pol)	12.06.71
11	Joonas KOLKKA (Fin)	28.09.74
24	Ovidiu STINGA (Rom)	05.12.72
6	Mark VAN BOMMEL	22.04.77
17	Bjorn VAN DER DOELEN	24.08.76
14	Johann VOGEL (Swi)	08.03.77

FORWARDS

31	Godwin ATTRAM (Gha)	07.08.80
22	Wilfred BOUMA	15.06.78
9	Arnold BRUGGINK	24.07.77
10	Luc NILIS (Blg)	25.05.67
19	Dennis ROMMEDAHL (Den)	22.07.78
8	Ruud VAN NISTELROOY	01.07.76

COACH

Eric GERETS

RKC

GOALKEEPERS

Khalid SINOUH (Mor)	02.05.75
Rob VAN DIJK	15.01.69

DEFENDERS

Tim CORNELISSE	03.04.78
Darije KALEZIC (Bos)	01.11.69
Ad LEEMANS	23.01.76
David Sousa NASCIMENTO (Por)	16.03.66
Virgilio TEIXEIRA (Por)	11.08.73
Carlos VAN WANROOY	01.06.67

MIDFIELDERS

Garry DE GRAEF (Blg)	21.10.74
Bas DREEF	15.01.79
Dejan GOVEDARICA (Yug)	02.10.69
Roberto LANCKOHR	06.08.69
Maarten SCHOPS	03.04.76
Tommie VAN DER LEEGTE	27.03.77
Dennis VAN DER PENNEN	29.05.76
Michel VAN ZUNDERT	15.04.78

FORWARDS

Richard BEEKINK	20.10.71
Charles CHIEMEZIE (Nig)	14.08.79
Yuri CORNELISSE	08.05.75
Ron HEESAKKERS	25.11.78
Rick HOOGENDORP	12.01.75
Yuri PETROV (Rus)	18.07.74
Leon VAN NIEUWKERK	04.11.74

COACH

Martin JOL

RODA JC

GOALKEEPERS

Gregory DELWARTE (Blg)	30.01.78
Zeljko KALAC (Aus)	16.12.72
Jan VERCAMMEN (Blg)	28.12.78

DEFENDERS

Gunnar EINARSSON (Ice)	07.07.77
Mark LUYPERS	05.10.70
Humphrey RUDGE	15.08.77
Ger SENDEN	09.07.71
Stephan 'T HART	10.12.70
Ramon VAN HAAREN	16.09.72
Regillio VREDE	18.01.73

MIDFIELDERS

Arno DOOMERNIK	14.08.70
Garba LAWAL (Nig)	22.05.74
Marc NYGAARD (Den)	01.09.76
Joos VALGAEREN (Blg)	03.03.76
Eric VAN DER LUER	16.08.65
Kevin VAN DESSEL (Blg)	09.04.79
Davy ZAFARIN	22.05.78

FORWARDS

Samir OUINDI (Ger)	13.08.79
Bob PEETERS (Blg)	10.01.74
Bernard TCHOUTANG (Cam)	02.09.76
Gabor TORMA (Hun)	01.08.76
Peter VAN HOUDT (Blg)	04.11.76

COACH

Sef VERGOOSSEN

SPARTA

GOALKEEPERS

Roland JANSEN	24.09.69
Arnoud TOET	10.12.77

DEFENDERS

Houssin BEZZAI (Mor)	04.11.78
Steve GOOSSEN	12.11.68
Kew JALIENS	15.09.78
Reginaldo MARILIA de Santana (Bra)	22.07.75
Mark NOORLANDER	27.01.71
Jerry SMITH	16.08.72
Antoine VAN DER LINDEN	17.03.76
Dave VAN DER MEER	13.05.73
Alex VAN DUIJVENBODE	31.08.74

MIDFIELDERS

Ali ELKHATTABI (Mor)	17.01.77
Yurtcan KAYIS (Tur)	29.07.75
Michel LANGERAK	08.07.68
Patrick MOLENDIJK	10.03.77
Anders NIELSEN (Den)	23.11.72
Sieme ZIJM	25.01.78

FORWARDS

John DEN DUNNEN	22.07.72
Nixon DIAZ	02.09.79
Fouad ELHAMDAOUI (Mor)	10.08.80
Silvan INIA	24.01.69
Bram MARBUS	16.04.72
Mourad MGHIZRAT (Mor)	07.09.74
Roy STROEVE	15.05.77
Erik TAMMER	29.06.69
Romeo WOUDEN	24.12.70

COACH

Dolf ROKS

TWENTE

GOALKEEPERS

1	Sander BOSCHKER	20.10.70
16	Cees PAAUWE	03.11.77
22	Aldo SWAGER	01.09.65

DEFENDERS

3	Spira GRUJIC (Yug)	07.12.71
12	Jeroen HEUBACH	24.09.74
19	Edwin HILGERINK	16.01.72
2	Dennis HULSHOFF	20.01.70
4	Andre KARNEBEEK	01.03.71
13	Rahim OUEDRAOGO (BuF)	08.10.80
17	Jorg SOBIECH (Ger)	15.01.69
20	Erik TEN HAG	02.02.70
5	Jan VERLINDEN (Blg)	08.03.73

MIDFIELDERS

18	Pascal DE VRIES	17.04.77
21	Frederic PEIREMANS (Blg)	03.09.73
10	Rico STEINMANN (Ger)	26.12.67
11	Berthil TER AVEST	19.11.70
7	Kurt VAN DE PAAR (Blg)	10.01.78
6	Arjan VAN DER LAAN	10.11.69

FORWARDS

8	Scott BOOTH (Sco)	16.12.71
14	Chris DE WITTE (Blg)	13.01.78
23	Andy VAN DER MEYDE	30.09.79
9	Jan VENNEGOOR OF HESSELINK	07.11.78

COACH

Fred RUTTEN

UTRECHT

GOALKEEPERS

Frank KOOIMAN	13.01.70
Stefan POSTMA	16.12.72
Harald WAPENAAR	10.04.70

DEFENDERS

Pascal BOSSCHAART	28.02.80
Emmanuel NWAKIRE (Nig)	15.08.78
Azubuike OLISEH (Nig)	18.11.78
Henny van SCHOONHOVEN	28.08.70
Ettiene SHEW-ATJON	24.11.79
Marko VAN DE KNAPP	15.01.79
Mitchell VAN DER GAAG	22.10.73
Stijn VREVEN (Blg)	18.07.73
Patrick ZWAANSWIJK	17.01.75

MIDFIELDERS

Jean-Paul DE JONG	17.10.70
John DE JONG	09.03.77
Alfons GROENENDIJK	17.05.74
Theo LUCIUS	19.12.76
Didier MARTEL (Fra)	26.10.71
Reinier ROBBEMOND	31.01.72
Hendrik VAN BEELEN	05.12.79
Tom VAN MOL (Blg)	12.10.72
Jordy ZUIDAM	

FORWARDS

Ruud BERGER	18.02.80
Marinus DIJKHUIZEN	04.01.72
Jamie FORRESTER (Eng)	01.11.74
Leon KANTELBERG	15.07.78
Dirk KUIJT	22.07.80

COACH

Mark WOTTE

VITESSE

GOALKEEPERS

12	Kostas CHANIOTAKIS (Gre)	19.07.68
1	Dragoslav JEVRIC (Yug)	08.07.74
22	Bas WIJNEN	19.11.80

DEFENDERS

3	Pieter COLLEN (Blg)	20.06.80
27	Marco DE MARCHI (Ita)	08.09.66
8	Michel KREEK	16.01.71
18	Martijn KUIPER	21.11.78
2	Stefan NANU (Rom)	08.09.68
30	Dejan STEFANOVIC (Yug)	28.10.74
28	Jochem VAN DER HOEVEN	05.10.75
23	Remco VAN DER SCHAAF	28.02.79
7	Marc VAN HINTUM	22.06.67
29	John VELDMAN	24.02.68
20	Peter WISGERHOF	19.11.79
5	Marian ZEMAN (Slk)	07.07.74

MIDFIELDERS

6	Mahamadou DIARRA (Mli)	18.05.81
10	Nenad GROZDIC (Yug)	03.02.74
19	Theo JANSSEN	27.07.81
16	Arco JOCHEMSEN	21.02.71
11	Louis LAROS	12.03.73
26	Orlando TRUSTFULL	04.08.70
4	John VAN DEN BROM	04.10.66

FORWARDS

21	Matthew AMOAH (Gha)	24.10.80
24	Patrick AX	01.12.79
14	Dejan CUROVIC (Yug)	10.08.68
17	Carlos FORTES	27.04.74
25	Rahamat MUSTAPHA	10.10.81
15	Victor SIKORA	11.04.78
9	Pierre VAN HOOIJDONK	29.11.69
31	Mamadou ZONGO (BuF)	08.10.80

COACH

Ronald KOEMAN

WILLEM II

GOALKEEPERS

Kris MAMPAEY (Blg)	02.11.70
Casper NELIS	12.06.76
Jim VAN FESSEM	07.08.75

DEFENDERS

Marco GENTILE	24.08.68
Reinder HENDRIKS	26.04.73
Delano HILL	29.04.75
Joris MATHIJSEN	05.04.80
Geoffrey PROMMAYON (Tha)	25.10.71
Mark SCHENNING	18.10.70
Jos VAN NIEUWSTADT	19.11.79
Guy VELDEMAN (Blg)	14.12.78
Raymond VICTORIA	10.10.72

MIDFIELDERS

Arno ARTS	26.06.69
Tom CALUWE (Blg)	07.04.75
Tomas GALASEK (Cze)	16.01.73
Denny LANDZAAT	06.05.76
Dmitri SHOUKOV (Rus)	26.09.75
Marcel VALK	18.04.67
Hes VAN KAPEL	29.12.77

FORWARDS

Yassine ABDELLAOUI (Mor)	21.06.75
Mariano BOMBARDA (Arg)	10.09.72
Jatto CEESAY (Gam)	16.11.74
Erwin HERMES	16.12.69
Adil RAMZI (Mor)	14.07.77
Ousmane SANOU (BuF)	11.03.78
Dennis SCHULP	18.01.78

COACH

Co ADRIAANSE

PORTUGAL

ALVERCA

GOALKEEPERS

12	BRUNO Miguel da Silva FERNANDES	09.06.80
1	Sergei OVCHINNIKOV (Rus)	10.11.70
24	PAULO Jorge da Silva dos SANTOS	11.12.72

DEFENDERS

2	ABEL Jorge Pereira da SILVA	21.08.69
19	Rui Manuel Ranhola CAPUCHO	11.03.73
27	Joao GASPAR Silva Azevedo	01.06.75
17	GILBER Dalmonick Viana (Bra)	14.07.75
4	HUGO Alexandre Esteves COSTA	04.11.73
28	HUGO Filipe Ferreira dos SANTOS	27.01.78
25	NELSON Dias MORAIS	24.03.74
5	Pedro Ivo Filho, PEDRINHO (Bra)	22.08.78
29	Jose Carlos Leite SOUSA	09.10.77
23	Nelson Alexandre da Silva VERISSIMO	17.04.77

MIDFIELDERS

16	ANDERSON Roberto da Silva Luiz (Bra)	01.02.78
20	BERNARDO Mario Faustino Cariata (Ang)	11.11.77
6	DIOGO Maria de Sousa Franco de Matos	15.11.75
11	JAMIR Adriano Paz Gomes (Bra)	13.05.73
30	JOSE ANTONIO dos Santos Silva	14.03.77
3	Vassili KULKOV (Rus)	11.06.66
10	Nikola MILINKOVIC (Bos)	19.03.68
18	NUNO ASSIS Lopes Almeida	25.11.77
21	RUI Fernando do Nascimento BORGES	14.12.73
14	Zacarias Manuel Barros Gaspar, ZECA	03.03.76

FORWARDS

8	Celso Dias Neves, CAJU (Bra)	10.08.76
9	FILIPE Vaz de AZEVEDO	21.01.75
22	Ivan Garcia Cortes, MINER (Spa)	03.06.71
32	PEDRO MANUEL	18.03.82
7	Ricardo Manuel Santos Lopes RAMIRES	22.03.76

COACH

JOSE Prata ROMAO

BELENENSES

GOALKEEPERS

12	Marco Antonio Pinto da Silva BOTELHO	25.02.76
24	LUIS Miguel Cardoso FERREIRA	06.10.72
1	MARCO AURELIO Siqueira (Bra)	04.06.70

DEFENDERS

4	Paulo Sergio Martinho CABRAL (Ang)	24.06.72
5	FERNANDO Manuel Antunes MENDES	05.11.66
22	Luis Carlos FILGUEIRA (Bra)	10.01.67
2	JOSE CARLOS Martins Ferreira	02.08.66
3	NILSON Domingos Costa (Bra)	10.12.72
13	RUI Pedro Prata Conceicao GREGORIO	16.12.68
6	WILSON Constantino Novo Estrela (Ang)	13.03.69

MIDFIELDERS

10	Luis Manuel Alves Rolao BALTAZAR	25.11.66
21	Nuno Alexandre Ribeiro CARRASQUEIRA	19.07.77
23	FRANKLIM Luis Manuel (Ang)	19.12.78
30	Antonio Filipe de Sousa GOUVEIA	12.05.73
25	Jose Carlos Fernandes Vidigal, LITO (Ang)	11.07.69
19	Joao Alexandre Duarte Fernandes, NECA	31.12.79
20	PEDRO Miguel ESTRELA Duarte	22.03.73
26	RUI Pedro Viegas Silva Gomes DUARTE	16.09.78
8	Joao Carlos N. Araujo Goncalves, TUCK	31.10.69

FORWARDS

17	Arlindo Gomes Semedo, CAFU	17.11.77
28	Haruna DODA (Nig)	16.01.75
7	JOAO PAULO Candeias BRITO	05.06.74
18	LUIS Filipe Monteiro NUNES	28.10.77
14	RENATO Pedro Oliveira Almeida Anjos	19.10.69
16	RUI Carlos Jorge PATACA (Ang)	08.05.73
9	Jesus SEBA Hernandez (Spa)	11.03.74

COACH

VITOR Manuel OLIVEIRA

BENFICA

GOALKEEPERS

1	Carlos BOSSIO (Arg)	01.12.73
24	Robert ENKE (Ger)	24.08.77
31	Jose Filipe da Silva MOREIRA	20.03.82
42	NUNO MARQUES	
14	NUNO Luis Costa SANTOS	20.04.73

DEFENDERS

30	Luis Filipe ANDRADE Oliveira	30.09.73
19	BRUNO Miguel Leite BASTO	21.05.78
2	Tahar EL KHALEJ (Mor)	16.06.68
3	JOSE Feliciano Loureiro SOARES	23.02.76
	Triantafilos MAHERIDIS (Gre)	10.11.73
4	Gbenga OKUNOWO (Nig)	01.03.79
5	PAULO Sergio Braga MADEIRA	06.09.70
23	Ricardo ROJAS (Par)	26.01.71
13	RONALDO Guiaro (Bra)	18.02.74
29	SERGIO Manuel Ferreira NUNES	21.07.74

MIDFIELDERS

22	Jose Antonio CALADO da Silva	01.03.74
10	Sebastian Cruzado Fernandez, CHANO (Spa)	28.02.65
17	Serguei KANDAUROV (Ukr)	02.12.72
15	LUIS CARLOS da Silva Marques	21.08.72
20	Nuno R. Oliveira Ribeiro, MANICHE	11.11.77
6	MARCO Luis Verissimo de FREITAS	29.08.72
7	Karel POBORSKY (Cze)	30.03.72
32	Hugo Cardoso PORFIRIO	28.09.73
	Christian URIBE (Chl)	01.08.76

FORWARDS

11	Jorge Paulo CADETE Reis	27.08.68
8	JOAO Manuel Vieira PINTO	19.08.71
16	JORGE Miguel Oliveira RIBEIRO	09.11.81
45	MAWETE Joao Baptista JUNIOR	25.01.81
21	NUNO Miguel S. P. Ribeiro, GOMES	05.07.76
18	Pedro Miguel Marques C. Felipe, PEPA	14.02.80
	Abdelsatar SABRY (Egy)	19.06.74
9	Jorge Lopez Marco, TOTE (Spa)	23.11.78

COACH

Jupp HEYNCKES

BOAVISTA

GOALKEEPERS

24	PEDRO Nuno Alves Soares ALBERGARIA	12.12.80
1	RICARDO Alexandre Martins Soares Pereira	11.02.76
12	WILLIAM Andem Bassey (Cam)	14.06.68

DEFENDERS

14	CARLOS ALBERTO Ribeiro Pereira (Bra)	10.10.74
21	Luis JORGE Pinto da SILVA	04.12.75
17	Carlos Manuel de Oliveira Magalhaes, LITOS	25.02.74
30	MARIO Fernandes Magalhaes SILVA	24.04.77
2	PAULO Jorge Ferreira de SOUSA	31.03.67
5	PEDRO EMANUEL Santos M. Silva	11.02.75
15	William QUEVEDO (Fra)	08.05.71
4	SERGIO Ricardo Pereira CARVALHO	06.05.77

MIDFIELDERS

13	EMANUEL Faria Braga	07.07.75
27	Antonio Jose Faria FORMOSO	08.02.74
20	JORGE Antonio Pinto do COUTO	01.07.70
8	LUIS MANUEL Rodrigues Viana	06.11.70
16	Joaquim Pereira Silva, MARTELINHO	19.11.74
25	NILTON Rogerio Cardoso Fernandes	07.03.79
6	PEDRO Rui da Mota Vieira MARTINS	17.07.70
19	Jose ROGERIO de Melo (Bra)	13.10.74
3	RUI Fernando da Silva Capalez BENTO	14.01.72
7	Ion TIMOFTE (Rom)	16.12.67

FORWARDS

23	Augustine AHINFUL (Gha)	30.11.74
11	CESAR de Loma Atienza (Spa)	14.07.75
18	Rudolph M'Bela DOUALA (Cam)	25.09.78
9	GILMAR Estevan (Bra)	11.04.67
10	Alami Samori da Silva MOREIRA	16.06.78
22	RICARDO Jorge Fernandes SILVA	29.03.77
26	WHELLITON Augusto Silva (Bra)	23.07.72

COACH

JAIME Moreira PACHECO

CAMPOMAIORENSE

GOALKEEPERS

1	PAULO SERGIO Rodrigues Firmino	13.11.70
24	Dragoslav POLEKSIC (Yug)	28.08.70

DEFENDERS

3	ARLEY Alvarez Medeiros (Bra)	30.06.72
4	Albekes Jose Assis Santos, BEKE (Bra)	18.06.76
25	BRUNO Miguel C. S. Oliveira MENDES	15.03.76
21	Fernando JORGE da Silva RIBEIRO	15.11.75
2	MARCO Alexandre Saraiva da SILVA	12.07.77
8	RENE Luis Vilela Squella RIVAS (Bra)	18.10.68
20	ROGERIO Pedro C. Marques MATIAS	22.10.74

MIDFIELDERS

14	ABILIO Antonio Gomes Novais	24.06.67
6	Carlos Alberto Correia Fortes, CAO	20.10.72
10	HUGO Filipe da Silva CUNHA	18.02.77
15	MARIO JORGE Aveleira Ramos	06.10.69
22	Rui Miguel A. N. Lopes, MICKEY	22.03.72
7	Paulo Fernando da Estalagem POEJO	30.09.73
16	SANDRO Miguel Ribeiro	18.12.82
18	Fernando Manuel Gomes de SOUSA (Ang)	04.08.67
13	Pedro Miguel Ferreira Silva, TORRAO	12.03.77

FORWARDS

27	DAVID Javier Garcia (Spa)	09.06.81
9	DEMETRIOS Montanini (Bra)	18.03.71
23	HELDER GARCIA Pinto Almeida	27.12.76
30	Jorge Miguel Ferreira, JORGINHO	31.10.75
11	Jose LAELSON Lima Cabral (Bra)	29.10.75
19	WALDO Alvarez Herrezuelo (Spa)	08.03.80
17	WELLINGTON Vieira da Silva (Bra)	30.04.75

COACH

CARLOS MANUEL Correia dos Santos

ESTRELA AMADORA

GOALKEEPERS

1	LUIS Filipe Pereira VASCO	29.12.66
31	MIGUEL ALEIXO	
24	PEDRO Nuno Vieira DUARTE	19.02.72
12	TIAGO Alexandre Baptista Ferreira	16.04.75

DEFENDERS

5	Daniel KENEDY Pimentel M. dos Santos	18.02.74
3	Jose Martins LEAL	23.03.65
4	RAUL Miguel Silva da Fonseca Carlos OLIVEIRA	26.08.72
22	Joaquim Goncalves REBELO	12.02.61
2	RUI Miguel Leal das NEVES	21.12.69

MIDFIELDERS

17	Gilberto Cesar Vouzela, GAUCHO II (Bra)	28.06.71
23	HELDER Sandro Morais QUENTAL	15.04.70
10	JORGE Manuel Almeida Gomes ANDRADE	09.04.78
7	JOSE CARLOS dos Santos Mateus	12.05.68
20	LAZARO Fonseca da Costa Oliveira (Ang)	27.08.67
9	PEDRO Nuno Grais SIMOES	24.09.74
19	SERGIO Nuno Nogueira Pascoa MARQUES	19.09.76

FORWARDS

13	Eric Freire Gomes, GAUCHO I (Bra)	22.09.72
21	Jose GILBERTO Ribeiro (Bra)	04.07.67
8	JOAO Antonio G. Correia PIRES	19.11.70
11	Leonson Edward Jeffrey LEWIS (T&T)	30.12.66
16	Luis MIGUEL Brito Garcia Monteiro	04.01.80
15	Sergio Ricardo Ramalho, SERGINHO (Bra)	27.05.73
14	Jose STENIO Ribeiro de Ascencao (Bra)	05.06.72
6	Nerival Bezerra, VERONA (Bra)	10.03.74
18	VITOR Sergio Coelho Barbosa VIEIRA	21.03.73

COACH

JORGE Fernando Pinheiro de JESUS

FARENSE

GOALKEEPERS

1	Luis Miguel Rodrigues CANDEIAS	06.10.72
12	Armando MIGUEL Martires Matias ROSA	15.05.79
27	Zoran MIJANOVIC (Yug)	05.06.74

DEFENDERS

13	CARLOS Miguel Brandao FERNANDES	05.05.78
21	DINO Goncalo Castro Jorge	07.12.78
2	Rui Pedro Rodrigues EUGENIO	21.07.66
5	Devanir Ferreira Carmo, KING (Bra)	01.07.70
3	Carlos MIGUEL Figueira Martins SERODIO	16.04.69
4	PAULO SERGIO Pacheco Silva (Bra)	02.04.69
26	PEDRO MIGUEL Bastos Soares Ferreira	23.08.67

MIDFIELDERS

6	Nail BESIROVIC (Bos)	22.07.67
20	CARLOS Manuel Salgado COSTA	08.11.66
11	Nuno Jose Costa DIEB	06.06.75
10	Redouane HAJRY (Mor)	05.03.64
18	Lucian MARINESCU (Rom)	24.06.72
30	MIGUEL Antonio Fonseca MOTA	05.04.76
22	NUNO Alexandre Carvalho CAMPOS	24.04.75
8	Manuel Jorge Silva Cruz, TULIPA	16.10.72
7	VITOR MANUEL Sousa Ferreira	09.09.70

FORWARDS

14	Luis Miguel Passaro CAVACO	01.03.72
19	EVERSON (Bra)	
17	FABIO Alexandre Duarte Felicio	02.05.82
29	Issmat FAIZULIN (Rus)	05.03.73
9	Nader HASSAN (Mor)	08.07.65
25	MARCO NUNO Serrano Guerreiro	06.09.74
28	Jose Antonio Ramos Ribeiro, ZE TO	

COACH

JOAO Antonio F. Resende ALVES

GIL VICENTE

GOALKEEPERS

12	PAULO JORGE Carreira Nunes	16.06.70
1	PAULO Jorge Pedro LOPES	29.06.78
24	Peter RUFAI (Nig)	24.08.63

DEFENDERS

14	AURI Dias Faustino (Bra)	17.11.73
5	Adriano Pedro BESSA Costa	18.12.76
23	CARLOS Agostinho Moreira Martins	22.01.73
4	Jose Carlos da Costa LEMOS (Bra)	07.10.71
2	RUI Miguel Montes GUERREIRO	31.01.75
22	SERGIO Miguel Lopes LOMBA Costa	11.08.73
3	Jose F. Silva Goncalves, ZE NANDO	21.07.75

MIDFIELDERS

9	Jorge Antonio Rosa CASQUILHA	13.01.69
20	EDUARDO Manuel da Costa Oliveira	16.12.75
6	Joao Luis Ribeiro MATIAS	07.10.69
8	PEDRO Jorge Santos dos SANTOS	28.06.76
25	Armando Goncalves Teixeira, PETIT	25.09.76
10	RICARDO Nuno Queiros NASCIMENTO	19.04.74

FORWARDS

28	Carlos M. da S. Cunha, CARLITOS	06.03.77
29	Ovidiu Lucian CUC (Rom)	14.01.73
18	Carlos Manuel FANGUEIRO Soares	19.12.76
30	Jose Augusto Santana Santos, GUGA (Bra)	14.03.76
7	Antonio Jaime Neto Costa, JAIMINHO	28.07.71
19	Marco Jose Goncalves, MARQUINHOS	20.11.74
15	Anastacio Balbinot, RONDINHA (Bra)	05.05.73
13	Diocliciano Pereira TAVARES (GuB)	05.11.76
16	Alexandre Luis Oliveira Tavares, XANDI (Bra)	13.10.79

COACH

ALVARO Monteiro MAGALHAES

MARITIMO

GOALKEEPERS

24	NELSON Augusto Nobre Vasco	13.12.67
1	Yves VAN DER STRAETEN (Blg)	08.08.71

DEFENDERS

2	ALBERTINO Eloi Jesus Vieira Alves	05.11.71
3	CARLOS JORGE Camacho Dantas	08.11.66
17	EUSEBIO Malho Sousa	31.10.73
5	JORGE Manuel Guerreiro SOARES	22.10.71
21	Carlos Alberto Teixeira MARIANO	21.11.75
4	NUNO Miguel Figueiredo AFONSO	06.10.74
13	RUI OSCAR Neves de Sousa Viana	17.12.75
25	Ion SBURLEA (Rom)	26.03.71

MIDFIELDERS

16	BRUNO Marcelo Pereira Fernandes	30.06.74
18	Daniel Diaz Fernandez, DANI DIAZ (Spa)	03.08.73
11	Ilian ILIEV (Bul)	02.07.68
30	JOEL Teixeira dos SANTOS	09.03.75
8	Predrag JOKANOVIC (Yug)	26.10.68
14	PAULO SERGIO da Silva (Bra)	02.12.72
20	Ruben Dario PIAGGIO (Arg)	02.04.70
7	Jose Antonio Goncalves da Silva, ZECA	07.02.75

FORWARDS

6	JOAO Manuel Oliveira PINTO	03.08.71
23	Adelino Augusto Lopes, LINO (GuB)	21.11.76
28	Jorg SMEETS (Hol)	
9	Marius Ninel SUMUDICA (Rom)	03.04.71
22	Mariano Ramon TOEDTLI (Arg)	26.03.76
15	Nelson Antonio Soares da Gama, TONI (GuB)	02.08.72

COACH

Eduardo Manuel Martinho Vingada, NELO VINGADA

FC PORTO

GOALKEEPERS

24	Henrique HILARIO M. Alves Sampaio	21.10.75
1	RUI Manuel da Silva CORREIA	22.10.67
99	VITOR Manuel Martins BAIA	15.10.69

DEFENDERS

4	ALOISIO Pires Alves (Bra)	16.08.63
5	Argelico Fucks, ARGEL (Bra)	04.09.74
30	Jose Marcelo J. Arujo, ESQUERDINHA (Bra)	06.05.72
19	JOAO Manuel PINTO Tome dos Santos	26.05.73
2	JORGE Paulo COSTA Almeida	14.10.71
33	RICARDO Emidio Ramalho da SILVA	26.09.75
3	RUBENS Rodrigues dos Santos JUNIOR (Bra)	08.01.75
7	Carlos Alberto Oliveira SECRETARIO	12.05.70

MIDFIELDERS

18	Carlos Narciso, CHAINHO	10.07.74
29	Anderson Luis de Souza, DECO (Bra)	27.08.77
20	Joao Paulo M. Santos, PAULINHO	21.11.70
23	PAULO Alexandre Marques FERREIRA	14.09.73
6	Emilio Manuel Delgado PEIXE	16.01.73
10	RICARDO do Pinho SOUSA	11.01.79
14	RODOLFO Luis Costa Miguens Correia	06.11.76
8	RUI Gil Soares de BARROS	24.11.65

FORWARDS

17	ALESSANDRO Andrade Oliveira (Bra)	27.05.73
21	Nuno F. Goncalves Rocha, CAPUCHO	21.02.72
9	DOMINGOS Jose Paciencia de Oliveira	02.01.69
11	Ljubinko DRULOVIC (Yug)	11.09.68
26	Carlos Alberto Eduardo Ventura, DUDA (Bra)	15.03.74
15	Miklos FEHER (Hun)	20.07.79
22	Antonio Jose dos Santos FOLHA	21.05.71
16	Mario JARDEL Almeida Ribeiro (Bra)	18.09.73
27	ROMEU Antonio Soares de Almeida	08.10.74

COACH

FERNANDO Manuel Costa SANTOS

RIO AVE

GOALKEEPERS

24	TIAGO Andre de Oliveira	09.08.78
1	Antonio Luis Pinto Rama, TO LUIS	29.11.67
12	Antonio Jose Ferreira Cerdeira, TOZE	14.01.71

DEFENDERS

25	ARMANDO Miguel Correira de Sa	16.09.75
3	JORGE Humberto Rodrigues Cunha	21.08.79
26	Joaquim dos Santos MARTINS	16.08.70
16	Adelino da Rocha Vieira, NITO	05.07.67
21	Edinaldo Baptista dos Santos, PEU (Bra)	29.06.71
29	Sandreildo Santos Alves, SANDRO (Bra)	07.04.71

MIDFIELDERS

7	ALERCIO Carvalho do Melo (Bra)	04.02.75
18	Joao Carlos Rodrigues da COSTA	18.11.73
30	FABIO Ramon Ramos Meireles (Par)	14.06.80
23	Jose Celso Lima Bezerra, JADER (Bra)	12.09.77
10	LUIS Antonio Couto COENTRAO	28.03.77
8	Jose Miguel O. S. Aguiar, MIGUELITO	04.02.81
5	Edson Pereira de Barros, NIQUINHA (Bra)	30.09.71
4	Joao PAULO Silva LIMA PEREIRA	16.11.67
11	Sergio Miguel Silva Ferreira, SERGINHO	06.09.76
6	SERGIO Ricardo C. Figueiredo, CHINA	29.03.66

FORWARDS

15	ANDRE JACARE (Bra)	20.05.74
20	ARTUR JORGE Rocha Vicente (CVI)	26.12.72
9	Joao Carlos S. Miranda, CHICABALA	20.07.80
22	Augusto Vilela GAMA	26.01.70
14	HUGO HENRIQUE Arantes Castro Silva (Bra)	18.05.75

COACH

CARLOS Luis Morais BRITO

SALGUEIROS

GOALKEEPERS

1	JOAO RICARDO Pereira B. Santos Ferreira	07.01.70
12	JORGE Soares da SILVA	13.01.72
24	SILVINO de Almeida Louro	05.03.59

DEFENDERS

22	ADEMIR da Silva Chagas (Bra)	03.03.72
2	JORGE Manuel Freitas Pinto	05.10.77
14	NELSON Leonel Alves Fernandes	30.06.76
5	Joaquim da Silva NEVES	24.12.70
4	Paulo Jose Ramos Mendes, PAULINHO	26.05.66
3	Eduardo PEDRO REIS da Silva	30.06.67
17	Luis Miguel Amorim PEDROSA	13.03.72
23	RICARDO Manuel da Silva FERNANDES	14.01.78

MIDFIELDERS

19	ANDRE Venceslau Valentim Macanga (Ang)	14.05.78
18	CANDIDO Alves Moreira da Costa	30.04.81
20	CARLOS Alberto Martins FERREIRA	21.03.71
7	MARCO CLAUDIO Cardoso Lourenco	05.05.79
8	RENATO Soares da Silva (Bra)	19.11.74
6	RUI Vitor da Silva FERREIRA	29.03.73
15	Antonio M. Silva Cruz, TONINHO CRUZ	27.03.69

FORWARDS

21	BASILIO Alexandre Neiva de ALMEIDA	12.08.71
10	Eduardo Santos Baptista, EDU (Bra)	04.08.77
11	FERNANDO da Silva ALMEIDA	10.09.67
13	FILIPE Manuel Nunes CANDIDO	20.09.79
16	JOAO PEDRO Fernandes	09.03.75
9	Juliano Pascarullo Martins, PAQUITO (Bra)	26.08.77
25	Manuel Senrada RAMOS	09.05.78

COACH

VITOR MANUEL

SANTA CLARA

GOALKEEPERS

12	Hiraldo Jose Carvalho Norgueira, DU (Ang)	25.02.69
1	FERNANDO Domingos Pereira (Ang)	16.12.73
24	Jorge Luis MADUREIRA da Silva Freitas	08.02.65

DEFENDERS

20	CLAUDIO Antonio F. Coelho de Abreu (Ang)	08.06.71
19	Manuel EURICO Goncalves dos Santos	21.03.67
3	Pedro Martins FIGUEIREDO II	29.08.67
2	LUIS MIGUEL Barroso Alves	28.09.70
6	MICAEL Ferreira de Sousa	19.07.73
21	Bruno Alexandre dos Santos PATACAS	30.11.77
28	Nuno Miguel Mendes PORTELA	30.10.75
5	SERGIO Manuel Freitas Abreu	16.05.67
4	TELMO Alem da Silva (Bra)	13.01.75

MIDFIELDERS

18	Jorge AMARAL Rodrigues	01.06.70
16	Antonio Pedro M. Baptista, BARRIGANA	02.01.72
29	Klevis DALIPI (Alb)	13.03.76
10	Paulo Jose Lopes FIGUEIREDO I	28.11.72
25	LUIS CARLOS de Oliveira (Bra)	29.08.68
26	RAUL A. dos Santos BARBOSA (Bra)	18.05.72
22	SERGIO Jose Guerreiro GAMEIRO	06.12.75
7	SERGIO Manuel de Freitas PEDRO	17.06.69
15	Yasuhiro YOSHIDA (Jap)	14.07.69

FORWARDS

8	CLAYTON Ferreira da Cruz (Bra)	19.07.75
14	Jorge Manuel M. Nunes GAMBOA	19.04.73
9	George dos Santos PALADINI (Bra)	13.03.78
30	Dmitri PROKOPENKO (Rus)	24.05.72
23	Jose WANDERLEY Pereira da Silva (Bra)	24.04.74

COACH

MANUEL Jose Tavares FERNANDES

SPORTING BRAGA

GOALKEEPERS

12	PAULO Jorge Matos MORAIS	10.08.74
1	Joaquim Manuel Sampaio Silva, QUIM	27.11.75

DEFENDERS

19	ARTUR JORGE Torres G. Araujo Amorim	01.01.72
8	Alberto Paulo dos Santos CABRAL	10.12.68
5	IDALECIO Silvestre Lopes Soares Rosa	27.09.73
2	JOSE NUNO Freire da Silva Azevedo	19.07.69
15	Paulo Rui LINO Borges	21.07.71
3	ODAIR D'Arc Borges (Bra)	15.10.73

MIDFIELDERS

7	Jose Alberto da Mota BARROSO	26.08.70
22	BRUNO Alexandre Vaz Ferreira	12.10.70
14	Vitor Ilidio CASTANHEIRA Penas	07.09.77
48	HENRIQUE	
20	Adelino Jose Martins Baptista, JORDAO	30.08.71
10	LUIS MIGUEL da Fonseca Silva Costa (Ang)	22.07.71
6	Rui Miguel Baptista Araujo, MOZER	15.03.72
30	NUNO CAVALEIRO	07.01.76
17	PEDRO Ricardo Bandarra LAVOURA	29.06.74
36	RENATO	
16	TIAGO	

FORWARDS

25	Sob Evariste DIBO	27.12.68
21	JEAN Francisco Rodrigues, PAULISTA (Bra)	28.11.77
	LUIS FILIPE Angelo Rodrigues Fernandes	14.06.79
51	ROGER	
11	Elpideo Pereira da SILVA Filho (Bra)	19.07.75
9	Antonio Dinis Duarte, TONI (CVI)	30.01.67

COACH

MANUEL Ventura CAJUDA de Sousa

SPORTING LISBON

GOALKEEPERS

24	NELSON Alexandre Gomes Pereira	20.10.75
12	NUNO Filipe Oliveira dos SANTOS	09.07.78
1	Peter SCHMEICHEL (Den)	18.11.63

DEFENDERS

22	Roberto Luis Gaspar Deus Severo, BETO	03.05.76
	Andre CRUZ (Bra)	20.09.68
4	MARCOS Joaquim dos Santos (Bra)	14.09.75
2	Joaquim A. F. Machado, QUIM BERTO	09.10.71
6	Facundo QUIROGA (Arg)	01.01.78
23	RUI JORGE de Sousa Dias M. Oliveira	27.03.73
20	Abdelilah SABER (Mor)	21.04.74
35	Ricardo J. O. Duarte, SANTAMARIA	11.02.82
44	VASCO Manuel Vilhena FAISCA Teixeira	27.08.80
3	VINICIUS Conceicao e Silva (Bra)	07.03.77

MIDFIELDERS

18	Manuel Albino Morim Macaes, BINO	19.12.72
25	Ivone DE FRANCESCHI (Ita)	01.01.74
7	DELFIM Jose Fernandes Rola Teixeira	05.02.77
5	Aldo Pedro DUSCHER (Arg)	22.03.79
27	Mauricio HANUCH (Arg)	16.11.76
21	Julian KMET (Arg)	22.11.77
8	PEDRO Alexandre dos Santos BARBOSA	06.08.70
14	Antonio Jesus Garcia Gonzalez, TONITO (Spa)	24.02.77
17	Jose Luis da Cruz VIDIGAL	15.03.73

FORWARDS

11	Alberto Federico ACOSTA (Arg)	23.08.66
19	Kwame AYEW (Gha)	28.12.73
10	EDMILSON Goncalves Pimenta (Bra)	17.09.71
9	Ivailo IORDANOV (Bul)	22.04.68
13	Petar KRPAN (Cro)	01.07.74
	Mbo MPENZA (Blg)	04.12.76
26	Antonio Segura ROBAINA (Spa)	30.11.74
31	Juan Francisco VIVEROS Opazo (Chl)	08.08.80

COACH

Augusto INACIO

UNIAO LEIRIA

GOALKEEPERS

12	Fernando Carlos da Silva BAPTISTA	29.10.70
24	Joao Pedro MINGOTE Ribeiro	02.08.80
1	Miroslav ZIDNIJAK (Cro)	15.09.67

DEFENDERS

3	Cornelas Florin Ionel BATRINU (Rom)	19.03.71
2	Luis Miguel BILRO Pereira	01.04.71
25	Alfredo Daniel Lopes BOIA	28.11.75
30	Alessandro MARCAL Neves (Bra)	
21	NUNO Jorge Pereira Silva VALENTE	12.09.74
19	PAULO Jorge Rebelo DUARTE	06.04.69
4	Amandio Rui Lopes RAMOS	16.07.80
17	RENATO Jorge Magalhaes Dias Assuncao	21.01.73

MIDFIELDERS

10	Jailton dos Santos, DINDA (Bra)	18.08.72
23	Mark EDUSEI (Gha)	25.09.76
13	JOAO MANUEL Loureiro dos Santos	31.08.67
16	Augusto Duarte Pinto Maia, LEAO	22.04.71
7	LUIS Miguel Silva Tavares, VOUZELA	10.03.74
6	Nuno Miguel SOUSA Mendes	31.05.80

FORWARDS

22	Francisco Cruz Delgado, CHIQUINHO	28.09.80
28	Vanderlei da Silva, DERLEI (Bra)	14.07.75
15	Emmanuel DUAH (Gha)	14.11.76
18	HERIVELTO da Silva Moreira (Bra)	23.08.75
8	MARCELINO Diaz Suarez (Spa)	08.10.73
33	PAULO Lourenco Martins ALVES	10.12.69
20	Jose Jorge Gomes O. Almeida, ZEZINHO	22.01.72

COACH

MANUEL JOSE

VITORIA GUIMARAES

GOALKEEPERS

24	PEDRO Manuel ESPINHA Ferreira	20.09.65
1	VITOR NUNO Martins Esteves	19.04.75

DEFENDERS

4	ALEXANDRE Pereira de Sousa (Bra)	18.06.75
5	EVALDO Ribeiro Lopes (GuB)	31.07.72
6	FERNANDO Jose da Silva Freitas MEIRA	05.06.78
15	Paulo Alexandre Rodrigues FONSECA	05.03.73
26	Jose Carlos Goncalves Pereira, KIPULO	04.10.81
21	MARCIO Paraiso THEODORO (Bra)	19.02.68
2	Rui Pedro Espada RUIVO	22.04.77
3	Antonio TITO Nunes Ribeiro	17.05.72

MIDFIELDERS

7	Carlos Perez ALVAREZ (Spa)	01.11.71
11	GERALDO Moreira Silva Junior (Bra)	06.02.74
19	Jose Carlos LIMA dos Santos	02.10.77
10	Domingos Alexandrino Fonseca Gomes, LIXA (CVI)	22.01.77
30	Marco Paulo PAIVA da Rocha	07.02.73
16	PAULO Jorge Sousa GOMES	04.03.75
8	PEDRO Miguel da Silva MENDES	26.02.79
18	Jose Amorim Goncalves REGO	11.08.78
14	Sven Frederick Olof SODERSTROM (Swe)	30.01.73

FORWARDS

9	Ildebrando Dalosto, BRANDAO (Bra)	14.05.70
20	EDMILSON Dias de Lucena (Bra)	29.05.68
23	JAIRSON Fernandes da Costa Semedo (STP)	21.02.77
13	Fernando M. J. Santos, NANDINHO	17.03.73
17	Reveilson Evangelista da Silva, RIVA (Bra)	19.09.70

COACH

Joaquim Duro de Jesus, QUINITO

VITORIA SETUBAL

GOALKEEPERS

1	Fernando Jose Alves BRASSARD	11.04.72
12	MARCO Antonio Miranda TABUAS	20.10.76
24	PEDRO Manuel Freitas da SILVA	18.02.74

DEFENDERS

5	JOSE RUI Pina Aguiar	06.11.64
19	MARIO Jorge Amaro LOJA	27.12.77
3	NELSON Fernando Rosa da SILVA	18.07.76
2	PAULO Jorge Carmo Lobo FILIPE	11.12.77
16	PEDRO Ricardo Quintela HENRIQUES	16.10.74
4	Joaquim Manuel Aguiar Serafim, QUIM	05.04.67
27	RICARDO Alberto Silveira CARVALHO	18.05.78
14	Carlos Miguel Correia SEMEDO	21.01.80

MIDFIELDERS

7	CARLOS MANUEL Borges Sebastiao	05.09.76
23	Raul Neves CHIPENDA (Ang)	16.10.68
18	Nuno Miguel FRECHAUT Barreto	24.09.77
9	HELIO Filipe Dias Sousa	12.08.69
13	JORGE Manuel Gralha RIBEIRO	10.11.74
6	Jose MAMEDE Aleixo Ferreira	24.02.74
30	MARCO J. C. A. Alves FERREIRA	12.03.78
8	RUI CARLOS Madureira (Ang)	25.04.69

FORWARDS

25	Paulo Antonio Araujo Silva CATARINO	23.03.72
11	Francisco Q. Conde Junior, CHIQUINHO CONDE (Moz)	22.11.65
17	JORGE Miguel Carvalho P. S. MATOS	16.05.76
10	Henry Olufozoye Makinwa, MAKI (Nig)	06.11.77
22	MANUEL Antonio Mendes do CARMO	11.04.75
15	PEDRO Nuno Conde Fernandes MENDES	06.12.79
21	RUI Sergio da Costa GOMES	01.08.78
26	SERGIO JOAO (Bra)	26.12.68

COACH

CARLOS Alberto Lourenco CARDOSO

Juve gain as Ganz downs Lazio

Paddy Agnew reports from Rome

Mid-season signings...Inter's Ivan Cordoba, Adrian Mutu and Clarence Seedorf

JUST WHEN you were beginning to expect the new millennium to start with something different, up popped the Old Lady to reclaim her rightful place at the head of the Serie A posse.

Yes, indeed, Juventus clambered back to the top of the greasy pole on the opening Serie A day of 2000, thanks in part to their consistency and in part to Lazio's surprising 2-0 crash away to Venezia.

For four or five seasons now, players and coaches have been repeating a mantra-like chant to the effect that Serie A gets tougher and more evenly balanced every year. With the top six – Juventus, Lazio, Parma, Roma, Milan and Inter, in that order – divided by only six points as the New Year began, they might be right.

One of the most repeated cliches of recent seasons is that 'there are no longer easy games in Serie A'. To some extent, this is true. Such is the drawing power of Italian soccer, and its importance in the Italian social fabric, that even smaller clubs such as Perugia, Bari, Venezia etc are able to put together a handy little side.

Certainly erstwhile leaders Lazio were given a bitter reminder of that when they travelled to a frost-bound Isola Sant'Elena in Venice for the opening game of the New Year. While Lazio shuffled around, often literally having difficulty keeping their balance on the frozen surface, Venezia fluttered like the proverbial butterfly, stinging twice through well-taken goals from Maurizio Ganz and Filippo Maniero.

It is simply too early to know if Lazio paid the price of the unusually long Christmas/New Year break. For them everything still remains possible. What is sure, however, and the events of the opening fixtures of 2000 underlined the point, is that the hectic transfer market activity of December already has reaped a sizeable dividend for individual clubs.

Take 31-year-old Ganz. His move on loan from Milan to Venezia had been one of the less spectacular deals of December, but he marked his debut with his new club by showing typical six-yard-line opportunism when beating defender Alessandro Nesta to knock home a Maniero cross.

Ganz then went on to return the favour by setting up his partner for Venezia's second goal with a precise cross that Maniero headed in.

Venezia coach Luciano Spalletti was inevitably quick to praise. "Without Ganz, we'd have never scored that first goal," he said. "Not many players would believe they could get on the end of a cross like the one sent in by Maniero. Before Ganz turned it into the net, it looked certain to go over the byline. I don't know whether Ganz's arrival can guarantee our Serie A survival, but what is sure is that he represents a huge confidence boost."

Not that Ganz is new to goalscoring. Until Inter bought Ronaldo, thus denying Ganz a place in attack, he hit 29 goals in two seasons in Serie B

with Brescia, 37 in three Serie A seasons with Atalanta, and 24 in his first two seasons with Inter.

He moved to Milan a few months after Ronaldo arrived at Inter, but further disappointment was in store for Ganz with players such as George Weah and Oliver Bierhoff (and Andrii Shevchenko this season) keeping him largely confined to the bench.

So, frustrated by his lack of opportunities, Ganz settled for the move to Venezia just before Christmas, certain that at least he would be guaranteed first-team soccer.

His debut for Venezia provided a bright start to the New Year, but it was as nothing compared with the explosive impact made by one of Inter's December buys, Dutchman Clarence Seedorf, who was lifted from Real Madrid for some £15million. Seedorf was immediately influential in a playmaking role behind strikers Christian Vieri and Ivan Zamorano.

He set up Inter's opening goal against Perugia with an intelligent corner kick, pulled back deep for Grigoris Georgatos to hit home from outside the penalty area, and by half-time he had put the perfect seal on a splendid debut.

His run down the left wing put defender Roberto Ripa literally on his bottom and culminated with a brilliantly-struck goal almost from the byline. That inevitably sealed Perugia's fate, and Inter went on to a 5-0 win.

Seedorf and Ganz were only two of many players on the move as clubs made the most of a January transfer window that prompted the most frenzied winter-time market activity ever seen in Italy.

Seedorf's move was (at press time) the biggest, but other big-money deals involved Spaniard Jose Mari (£13.5m, Atletico Madrid to Milan), Colombian Ivan Cordoba (£10m, Argentina's San Lorenzo to Inter), and Frenchman Ousmane Dabo (£8m, Inter to Parma).

Further significant deals included Brazilian Andre Cruz (Torino to Sporting Lisbon), Yugoslav Dejan Petkovic (Venezia to Flamengo, incidentally making way for Ganz), Italian Fabrizio Ravanelli (Marseille to Lazio, and largely ineffective on his debut against Venezia), Nigerian Taribo West (Inter to Milan), Romanian Adrian Mutu (Dinamo Bucharest to Inter), Croat Tomislav Rukavina (Croatia Zagreb to Venezia), and Brazilian Alberto (Atletico Paranaense to Udinese).

While other big deals seem certain, in particular Hidetoshi Nakata from Perugia to Roma, one player surprisingly has withdrawn himself from the market: Inter's Roberto Baggio (33 this month). Despite public disagreements with coach Marcello Lippi, being restricted to only four games so far this season, and now having Seedorf as a rival, 'Little Prince' Baggio appears to have opted to stay at Inter.

This, however, is definitely a space to watch. Roberto Baggio is not yet down and out.

Nor is the Old Lady looking down and out, either. A 1-0 home win against Verona in the opening game of 2000 was enough to overhaul Lazio and put Juventus, 25-times champions, back on top. Filippo Inzaghi struck his eighth goal of the season to leave coach Carlo Ancelotti exclaiming: "To find ourselves out in front on our own is an important starting point for us in the title contest. Not many pundits would have forecast us leading the way as the year 2000 began."

Ancelotti is right, but with such as Parma, Roma, the Milan pair and Lazio all sitting on his tail, the 2000 championship battle is looking very intriguing and very open.

New boy...Fabrizio Ravanelli made his debut for Lazio against Venezia

www.dreamleague.com

official.original.online

Top man in Parma's fight for a first title

A COLD, foggy, typical winter's afternoon in Emilia Romagna, northern Italy. As far as one can see, which is not very far, the flat, Bertolucci-style countryside is frozen in limbo. If you were not careful, you could drive through little, nondescript Collecchio without even noticing it.

Collecchio, however, is not just another sleepy village, for it is here that Parma have sited their recently conceived, ultra-modern training ground.

Walking into the Parma 'clubhouse', the reputation of the family club is confirmed. Not only are you met with friendly greetings, but players also are found casually mingling with the visiting press.

Coach Alberto Malesani is busy with a media conference and that, in itself, represents a minor problem for his star striker, Argentinian Hernan Crespo.

You see, he is desperate for a cup of coffee with which to brace himself before he steps outside into the freezing fog for afternoon training. His problem is that the Parma coffee machine is in the corner of the small press room. How to get your cup of coffee and not disturb the boss? That is the question.

With all the speed of thought and alacrity of execution that marks his play, Crespo solves the problem. Just as Malesani is about to launch into a complex answer, the player breaks out into a fit of noisy coughing which, in turn, masks the noise of coffee grinding and steaming.

For much of this autumn, 24-year-old Crespo has been finding the answer to much more difficult problems in and around opposing penalty areas. He went into the New Year as Serie A's leading scorer and has been a key figure in a Parma recovery that has put them right up there in the contest for the League title.

After a disastrous start, including elimination from the Champions League, Parma are back in business – on course in both the UEFA Cup and, above all, Serie A, as emphasised by a remarkable pre-Christmas run of 25 points from 10 games.

Crespo admits to some satisfaction at his recent form but adds the classic striker's response when asked about his position at the top of the scoring chart: "As a striker, you always want to score goals, but that is not the primary objective. The main objective is to win the League title, and if I pick up the leading scorer's award as well, so much the better."

When Parma offloaded talent such as Argentinians Juan Veron and Nestor Sensini, as well as striker Enrico Chiesa this summer, many observers concluded that they had waved goodbye to their title chances.

Replacements such as Brazilian Marcio Amoroso (injured for much of this autumn), Argentinian Ariel Ortega and Belgian Johan Walem are excellent players, but could they compensate for those departing?

"It's difficult to compare last year's side with this one because really good players have left and other really good ones have arrived," says Crespo. "But the coaching staff is the same and we are working very, very hard. Look at our League position. At the moment we are one point ahead of where we were this time last year."

Parma, of course, are one of the success stories of the 1990s, a relatively small club that arrived in Serie A for the first time in 1990 but immediately became established in the European elite. Can they now clinch the League, the all-important title that has so far eluded them?

"God willing, God willing," is Crespo's reply. "We're certainly trying but it's very difficult to win a first title. It's always harder the first time. Our only hope is that some of our rivals will not be trying quite as hard as us because they've won it before.

"What is also true is that the Italian championship is simply the best in the world. Every side in the League can make life difficult for you, every side comes out ready to fight."

Whatever happens to Parma's title prospects, one thing already is clear from this current season: Crespo has at last established himself among the ranks of the most desirable strikers in world soccer.

Despite a more than respectable goal haul of 12-12-16 in his first three seasons since joining Parma from River Plate in the summer of 1996, Crespo has not always convinced everyone. His curly hair, his good looks and his initial inexperience all tempted some observers to dismiss him.

One man, however, flowed against the tide and fought a series of mini-battles to have him stay at Parma: former coach Carlo Ancelotti, currently coach to Juventus.

Last season he told *World Soccer*: "There's no secret about my admiration for Crespo – after I got to know him, I rated him among the best in the world, full stop."

Since that conversation, Ancelotti has backed his opinion with his club's money by trying to buy Crespo for Juventus. But Parma were in no mood to sell another important player.

Crespo's current coach, Malesani, obviously shares Ancelotti's high opinion, saying: "Crespo is maturing all the time, and I'm not talking about questions of technique but rather about the fact that he has matured as a man, he feels that he has to assume much more responsibility in this side, and knows that he is very important to the team.

"Remember, he arrived here as a young player but now, after three seasons, he has grown a lot, he has started to win trophies. Victories like that can make all the difference to a player's development."

Malesani's opinion was reflected in a recent survey carried out by TV Parma. The station asked fans to vote for their favourite Parma players of the last decade and Crespo was No 2 on the list, beaten only by defender Fabio Cannavaro.

That status will only be reinforced if Parma are still in with a chance of winning the title next May. If they are, then there seems little doubt that Crespo will have been one of the main factors behind their success.

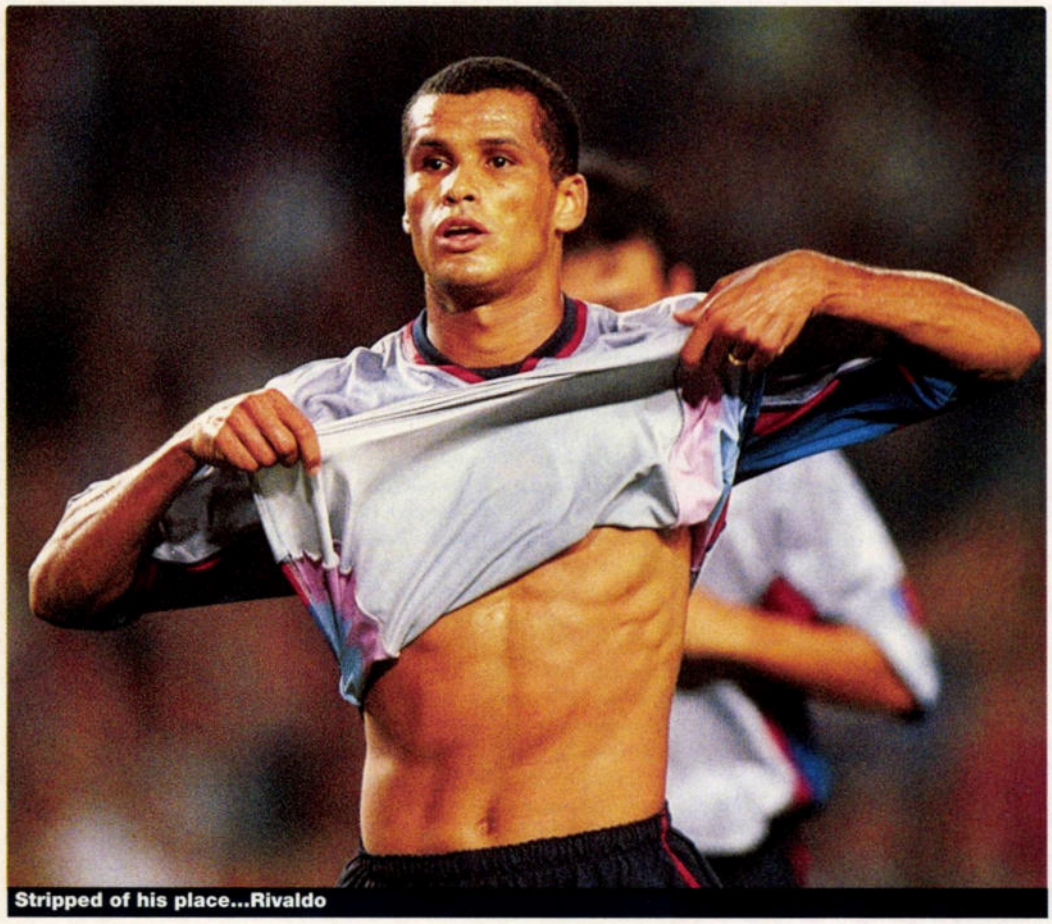
Paddy Agnew

Fact file

Club Parma (Ita)
Country Argentina
Born July 5, 1975, Florida, Argentina
Previous clubs River Plate
Honours Libertadores Cup 1996; UEFA Cup 1999; Argentinian opening championship 1995; Italian Cup 1999

Out in the cold

Keir Radnedge reports on the axing of Rivaldo



Stripped of his place...Rivaldo

RIVALDO collected an unusual Christmas present when Barcelona coach Louis Van Gaal made him the first newly-crowned European Footballer of the Year to be immediately dropped by his club.

The decision came after Rivaldo told Van Gaal that he would no longer play on the left wing, where the coach has always positioned him. Van Gaal, whose signing of his old Ajax protege Jari Litmanen last summer had irritated Rivaldo, responded by axing the Brazilian from his squad for Barcelona's last League match of the year, away to Rayo Vallecano.

Van Gaal said: "When an individual player puts his own interests above those of the club there has never been any doubt in my mind about what I must do. Rivaldo said to me – and you can imagine my surprise, as coach – that from now on he will refuse to play on the left wing. That is why he is not in the squad against Rayo. It's as simple as that.

"It's a great shame because I believe that Rivaldo has won all these prizes – such as European Footballer of the Year – and is finally being recognised as the best player in the world thanks to FC Barcelona, thanks to his team-mates and thanks to his tactical position in our team.

"In the last year he has won the Spanish League, been acknowledged by Pele as the world's best player, and was one goal from being the League's top marksman. Now he needs only the FIFA award and he has won everything.

"But it is not all down to his ability alone. That's why I say again: the club's interest has to be the most important factor – more important than any one player or even the coach."

Van Gaal, no respecter of reputations, had substituted Rivaldo during the previous Sunday's 2-1 win over Atletico Madrid. The 27-year-old Brazilian, out of touch throughout the game, was booed off by fans.

Rivaldo's increasingly confused status at Barcelona centres on problems over both his tactical role and contract renegotiations. Indeed, the recently-retired Bulgarian Hristo Stoichkov, a former Barcelona favourite, believes that a parting of the ways is not far off. Stoichkov has a particular insight because both he and Rivaldo are represented by agent Jose Minguella.

"Rivaldo's contract does not expire until June 2003," Stoichkov said. "But there is no way he will see it through at Barcelona. The way things are going you can be sure he will be leaving within the next year or so."

On the contract front, Rivaldo and his advisers say Barcelona promised to improve his £30,000-a-week contract in the light of the club's successes last season. Barcelona deny this.

Rivaldo's situation is not a carbon-copy of the Ronaldo saga, however. Ronaldo bought out his contract with Barcelona in 1997 and joined Internazionale for a then world record £19.5million. Then, his itchy feet were scratched by an army of agents with their own agendas.

Rivaldo, however, does not have an army of hangers-on, and one friend said: "If Barcelona offered somewhere near what he wants I'm sure he could be persuaded to stay."

But Rivaldo also is concerned about his football. He said: "The role I have always played, and to the greatest effect for whichever team, has been a free role between two strikers. Here I am asked to play wide on the left and that is just not my game.

"I am happy at Barcelona, with the club and the city and the people. It would take something really sad to make me want to leave."

That "something sad" may have begun when Van Gaal brought in Litmanen last summer. Under Van Gaal at Ajax, the Finn had played in Rivaldo's preferred position. Indeed, Rivaldo is involved in a major dispute with a Spanish magazine which quoted him as saying: "Litmanen is unnecessary at Barcelona."

Van Gaal took over at Barcelona from Bobby Robson in 1997 and Rivaldo was one of his first signings, for £16m. While the Dutchman always wanted Rivaldo to play wide left, the player always drifts towards the centre of the pitch during matches. While Barcelona were winning two League titles this did not matter, but this term, after a recent run of four League defeats, pressure has been building up.

If Van Gaal believes sacrificing Rivaldo is best in Barcelona's long-term interests, he will have no hesitation in doing it. He already has displayed his ruthless streak by dropping the De Boer twins, Frank and Ronald, as well as fans' favourite Pep Guardiola, the only Catalan established in the team, for the victory over Atletico Madrid.

Incidentally, Van Gaal has a new assistant – Jose Maria Bakero, the former Spain and Barcelona right-winger and then midfielder. He has taken over as No 2 from Ronald Koeman, who is returning to Holland to join Vitesse Arnhem.

Another Brazilian causing problems in Spain is Denilson, who threw down the gauntlet to Betis after ignoring warnings not to join his country's Olympic squad preparing for the South American qualifying tournament.

Betis protested in vain to the Brazilian federation after Denilson defied orders to stay in Spain for matches against Merida, Bilbao and League leaders La Coruna. Club president Manuel Ruiz de Lopera warned darkly: "Next season Denilson may find himself playing for a little club like Numancia or Alaves if he is not careful. We cannot stop him playing for his country's senior national team but that is as far as it goes. He should remember who pays his wages."

Brazil coach Wanderley Luxemburgo apparently helped Denilson make up his mind by promising that he would be appointed captain of Brazil in the Olympic tournament.

Players back 'very special' Gil

THERE have been more fun and games, of course, at Atletico Madrid, where president Jesus Gil and his board of directors were suspended by the courts over allegations that the Raging Bull faced fraud charges over sums totalling £36m.

Gil, also mayor of the millionaires' playground town of Marbella, was arrested early last year on charges concerning around £10m. He was remanded in custody but appealed successfully for his release, on health grounds, and continued running Atletico in his own idiosyncratic way.

Just before Christmas, however, Judge Manuel Garcia Castellon suspended Gil and the Atletico board pending the outcome of a new fraud case. Garcia Castellon and his investigating team claim that Gil had engaged in "accounting acrobatics" and other shady means to milk Atletico, its minority shareholders and the Spanish treasury since he became club owner in 1992, five years after being elected president.

Part of the alleged fraud involves the operation in which Gil and his associates gained control of a 95 per cent stake. Gil and vice-president Enrique Cerezo are accused of having manipulated the books so they could acquire that £8m share without spending anything.

In one bizarre transaction involving a sports promotion firm owned by Gil, the judge said Gil settled an £11m debt with Atletico by granting it the rights to four foreigners, saying that they were young star players. But the judge claimed that only one of them had played professionally, one was an Angolan labourer who lives in a shelter for asylum-seekers, and another was an unemployed Senegalese.

Gil has denied any wrongdoing and blamed political enemies. His players rallied to the cause as well.

A statement issued by skipper Toni and senior players Molina, Kiko and Santi said: "We want to make clear, on behalf of all the players of this historic club, our solidarity with Jesus Gil and his family at this time.

"We want to record our appreciation of the very special personal and professional relationship which exists between the Gil family and the players, and which must be maintained for the future good of the club. All we want is a return to the peaceful situation which existed before the courts became involved.

"You cannot play with the history of a club or the dreams of the fans."

Back on the pitch, the honour of scoring the first Spanish League goal of the new millennium fell to Valencia midfielder Gerard Lopez in the 1-1 draw with Celta Vigo.

Gerard headed Valencia ahead after only six minutes, from a Gaizka Mendieta corner. Celta equalised with Juan Velasco's first goal since his summer transfer from Sevilla, but Valencia held on for a point despite the absence of star Romanian striker Adrian Ilie. He had returned four days late after the holiday – much to the ire of coach Hector Cuper.

"He has apologised but I still cannot understand such behaviour," said Cuper. "It's a waste of his own talent. The team will always be more important than an individual player. He owes us a lot now – and I don't mean just money in fines."

Pro-file Diego Tristan

Mallorca's latecomer steals the show

AS 1999 drew to a close, the talk in Spain was about fresh-faced Mallorca striker Diego Tristan – the first new star of the new millennium.

Not that the powerfully-built forward is a spring chicken. Rather, he's a late developer, having just turned 24, after three years kicking his heels in the Second Division. But he's making up for lost time with a flood of vital and impressive goals.

Recognition for Tristan finally came in a remarkable three-week burst at the end of last year. It all began in Amsterdam, where he scored a magnificent solo goal in the UEFA Cup against Ajax, powering past three defenders and smashing in the only goal of the match from just outside the box.

Three days later the victims were Barcelona. Just before half-time Tristan made it 1-1 with one of his trademark well-placed headers. Ten minutes from time, with the score at 2-2, he deftly slipped past Frank De Boer and was brought down in the box by the bemused Dutchman. Tristan calmly got up and beat Ruud Hesp from the penalty spot.

The media's interest was aroused even further a week later when two more goals from Tristan earned Mallorca a 2-2 draw away to high-flying Alaves. Rumours abounded of a lucrative pre-contract offer from Real Madrid. Meanwhile, the goal rush continued, Tristan scoring the equaliser in the 1-1 draw with Oviedo with another powerful header.

Facing the television cameras for the umpteenth time, the quietly-spoken forward wisely tried to play down all the hype. "It's been a good month for me," he said, "but it's not going to go to my head. It's taken me a long time to break through. Now I just want to enjoy it and keep the goals coming."

He also played with a straight bat when asked about the possibility of playing for Spain. "It's a bit early to start talking of that, maybe. There's a lot of good forwards in front of me."

But the truth is, there's not. The Spanish striker cupboard is bare as usual, and national coach Jose Antonio Camacho will probably give Tristan a chance in the forthcoming friendlies against Poland, Italy and Sweden.

Born in Seville, Tristan grew up a keen Betis fan and made his way up through their ranks. But after two undistinguished seasons in their B team, he was sold cheaply in 1998 to Mallorca B. In Palma he linked up with the taller Albert Luque and they quickly formed a devastating partnership, each scoring 15 goals. Luque was sold to Sevilla but Tristan was promoted to the first team, in place of the injured Leonardo Biagini. The Argentine is now fit again. Tristan, though, will not be returning to the sidelines, not now that he's the talk of the town.

Duncan Shaw

Fact file

Club Mallorca
Country Spain
Born January 5, 1976, in Seville
Previous club Betis Sevilla

Hertha quick to spend winnings

Keir Radnedge on the lively winter transfer market

Happy returns...Hertha's injured Norwegian Kjetil Rekdal aims to be fit for Euro 2000

HERTHA BERLIN are already splashing out their Champions League profits as part of an ambitious team-building project.

The major acquisition is Brazilian striker Alex Alves from Cruzeiro, who will cost around £7million and says: "I'm more than happy to play for Hertha. My aim is to help them win the Bundesliga."

They might if he can reproduce the form that has made him one of Brazilian football's top scorers, with 54 goals in 114 games.

Hertha also are spending £1.5m on Red Star Belgrade sweeper Goran Bunjevcevic, have their eye on Georgi Markov, the 27-year-old Lokomotiv Sofia defender, and have lined up Germany midfielder Stefan Beinlich for an end-of-term move from Bayer Leverkusen.

There is good news, too, about the steadily improving centre-back, Kjetil Rekdal, the Norwegian who twice broke a leg last year. Now Rekdal wants to regain his place in his country's squad for Euro 2000.

He says: "The next few months are going to be very important for me. I think my chances of making Euro 2000 are still good. But I've got to make sure of first-team football with Hertha. I'm not 100 per cent yet."

Schalke also have been busy in the transfer market, spending a club record £5m on Standard Liege striker Emile Mpenza, with Mike Goossens returning to Standard as part of the deal. Schalke had been keen to strengthen their squad since losing veterans Johan De Kock (injury) and Ingo Anderbrugge (retirement).

Bayer Leverkusen have accused Roma of approaching Brazilian midfielder Emerson without permission, and want the DFB to protest to FIFA. Leverkusen say Roma agreed a £1.6m-a-year five-year contract with Emerson, but they have no intention of selling.

Kaiserslautern are buying Murat Yakin, the 25-year-old Switzerland midfielder, from Fenerbahce. Yakin's team-mate, Mustafa Dogan, who was raised in Germany, could be heading for either Bayern Munich or Borussia Dortmund. Both were alerted to his potential after national coach Erich Ribbeck called him up earlier this season.

Kaiserslautern's Youri Djorkaeff has revealed that he turned down an offer from Manchester United before joining the *Lauterer* from Inter last summer. "In the end it was an easy decision," said the French international. "United were offering me just a one-year contract and I wanted to commit myself longer-term.

"The three years that Kaiserslautern gave me were much more suitable. I also have a lot of respect for the coach, Otto Rehhagel."

A German Cup Final repeat is on the cards after the semi-final draw kept apart Werder Bremen and Bayern Munich, whom Bremen beat on penalties in last season's Final. Bayern are at home to Hansa Rostock, while Bremen host Second Division Stuttgart Kickers, who beat Freiburg in the quarter-finals.

Bremen reached the semis for the sixth time in 10 years after coming from behind to win 2-1 against Bochum, also in the Second Division.

One irritation for Bremen is that Peru midfielder Claudio Pizarro will miss their spring programme because of a summons to play in the South American qualifying tournament for the Olympic Games in Sydney.

Bayern reached the last four for the third successive season by defeating yet another Second Division club, Mainz. Hansa Rostock won the only all-Bundesliga quarter-final, overcoming Stuttgart.

Better news for the latter was that their Czech forward, Pavel Kuka, is back in training having made a full recovery after knee surgery. He will be fit to play when the Bundesliga resumes after the winter break.

There have been a number of 'golden oldies' in the news recently, including goalkeeper Andy Kopke (Nurnberg), long-time injured sweeper Matthias Sammer (Borussia Dortmund) and Jurgen Klinsmann (ex-Stuttgart, Inter, Monaco, Bayern and Tottenham). They have all applied for a place on this year's DFB coaching licence course.

Magath cracks the whip

STRUGGLING Eintracht Frankfurt have sacked Jorg Berger as coach and brought in Felix Magath to stage a rescue act. Magath says: "Eintracht are in a difficult situation but it's not hopeless. I'll do my best."

His best could earn him a £250,000 bonus on top of his six-month contract, worth £200,000, if he keeps the club in the top division.

Magath, 46, who has been out of work since leaving Werder Bremen last summer, has performed rescue jobs in the past for Nurnberg and Hamburg – the club he turned into European champions with his winning goal against Juventus in the 1983 Champions Cup Final.

He has a reputation as a hard task-master and has told the squad that they will start work at 7.30 each day and have at least three training sessions. "It's intensive, I know, but the players need to be really fit and feel they have achieved something before the Bundesliga resumes," he said.

Class act...Saint-Etienne's Alex

Brazilian buys bear fruit

WHY WORRY, as long as these amazing Brazilians keep coming? France's star players may be pillaged constantly by Italian, English and Spanish clubs, but with the likes of Alex and Christian arriving, who can complain?

On the same day that Alex, alias Alex Dias, scored four goals in Saint-Etienne's devastating 5-1 victory over Marseille, his compatriot, Christian Correa Dionisio, was claiming a hat-trick for Paris Saint-Germain in a 3-1 win at Metz.

Christian, 24, arrived at PSG from his local club, Internacional of Porto Alegre, but by a somewhat roundabout route, involving three years in Portugal and a return to Internacional, where he had begun his career as a 12-year-old.

He made a rather slow start in Paris, but has settled down, and his string of goals has made him a splendid acquisition.

Alex made an instant impact at Saint-Etienne after arriving from Goias this summer and rattled in a dozen goals in his first 15 games.

According to the 27-year-old, none of his four against Marseille was easy. "But when a team comes to win and leaves itself open, an attacker can profit from the space," he added.

The way that Marseille seemed to collapse in his presence makes you wonder very seriously whether they would not have been wise to have kept Rolland Courbis in charge, however much of a maverick he could be at times.

His successor, Bernard Casoni, is a mere beginner, and chaos has ensued, with the fans baying for blood.

The strangest sight at the Saint-Etienne game was that of the Marseille supporters leaving en masse at half-time. There had been trouble between the respective fans in the first half, which was duly put down, though not until both teams had been ordered to the dressing-rooms by the referee.

At that point Marseille were 3-0 down. After the resumption and having gone a further goal behind, their fans wanted to vote with their feet, only for the security staff to stop them because there were no dispositions to let supporters out of the stadium during play. At half-time, however, they were allowed to go and were escorted out – including an unlucky 200 who wanted to stay.

Ironic note...while Tony Vairelles, so recently a star striker for Lens, was crashing out of the UEFA Cup in Bremen with a badly-beaten Lyon team, his successor in the Lens attack, Joseph-Desire Job, was celebrating three goals and a triumph in the same tournament over Kaiserslautern. And from where did Job arrive?...Lyon.

Indeed, the 22-year-old Cameroonian had been nurtured by the club, who may be wondering now why they let him go while splashing out a fortune on Sonny Anderson and Vairelles in the close season.

Turn-up for Troyes

TROYES, the promoted minnows who looked as though they would be cast straight back into the sea, have embarked on a remarkable run of success, counting the likes of Lyon, Bordeaux and Auxerre among their victims.

Their young manager, Alain Perrin, new to the top division, admits that at the outset his players were overawed by the nature of the opposition. "All it needed," he says, "was a little more concentration and determination to pick up points away from home."

He admits that, individually, his players don't measure up to some of their opponents. But they more than make up for it by their worth as a team.

Perrin says there has been no great difference between managing in Division Two and Division One, "except that in the top flight your mistakes are often punished more severely".

Andre Duclos

Pro-file Marcelo Gallardo

Monaco magician with plenty of team spirit

MONACO are leading the dance in the French championship this season and it is in no small part due to the creative rhythms laid down in midfield by their Argentine international maestro Marcelo Gallardo.

Since he arrived in Monte Carlo last summer in a £5million deal from River Plate, Monaco's Franco-Italian strikeforce of David Trezeguet and Marco Simone have been on double penalty-box rations, gorging themselves on the supply from the Argentine.

Gallardo is blessed with extraordinary technique, a sublime touch and dribbling skills. But he is very much a team man.

"It's rare to see a player with Marcelo's vast range of skills," says team-mate Sabri Lamouchi. "But he never wastes his great talent on unnecessary show-boating. He makes sure his ability is there for the benefit of the entire side.

"He will beat one, two or three defenders with ease and you might expect him to be egotistical and go for goal himself. But it's not his mentality. His first instinct is to pass the ball to someone who is better placed to score. He is the sort of player who is given a sausage at the start of a move and then turns it into caviar."

Gallardo's highly successful start with Monaco also owes much to the willingness of coach Claude Puel to change his tactics in order to bring the best out of the Argentine.

At the start of the season, the plan was to employ a four-man midfield comprising a ball-winner, two wide players and Gallardo just behind the strikers. But the configuration did not work well as Monaco slumped to defeat in their opening two League games, and Puel was forced to rethink.

The new midfield features two grafters in the centre with a playmaker on each flank – Gallardo on the left and Ludovic Giuly on the right – and with the Argentine's penetrating runs and flair for improvisation to the fore, the formation has paid dividends. Not only are Monaco winning, but they are playing delightful football.

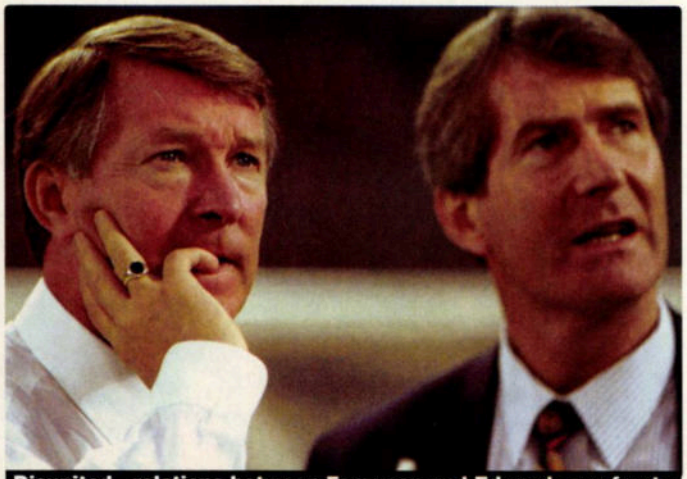
"It's a great system to play in," says Gallardo. "Although I spend much time on the left side, I have a lot of freedom. To a certain extent, I can go where I feel I can best stretch a defence and come up with a good final ball.

"My coach at River Plate, Ramon Diaz, used to play for Monaco and he was right when he told me that my style of play would fit Monaco like a glove. The emphasis here is on adventurous football and I'm totally at home."

Nick Bidwell

Fact file

Club Monaco (Fra)
Country Argentina
Born January 18, 1976, in Merlo
Previous club River Plate
International debut November 1994, v Chile
International caps 38 (11 goals)
Honours Pan-American Games 1995; Libertadores Cup 1996; Argentinian opening championship 1994, 1996, 1997; closing championship 1997


Disunited...relations between Ferguson and Edwards are frosty

Trouble at the top

Gavin Hamilton on Old Trafford's clash of wills

MANCHESTER UNITED left for the World Club Championship in Brazil with their standings in the Premier League and Champions League in good stead. But relations between manager Alex Ferguson and chairman Martin Edwards were far less positive.

It now appears that Ferguson may leave Old Trafford when his contract expires in the summer of 2002. Edwards has made no secret of his reluctance to give Ferguson a new post elsewhere at the club, while the manager is said to be keen to move 'upstairs' to a general manager role.

The pair have clashed on a number of issues in recent months, notably over the apparent reluctance of the United board to pay large sums in player wages and transfer fees. The award of a new contract worth £50,000 a week to Roy Keane represented a major victory for Ferguson in the increasingly frosty feud. In addition, Edwards was reported to have blocked Ferguson's involvement in BSkyB's proposed takeover of United, fearing that he would prove a liability.

There is clearly a great deal of tension between the two. When asked about a move to a new position within the club, Ferguson commented: "I am not in control of these things. Martin Edwards has made it clear, so I don't worry... but I'll remain active in the game. I could take consultancy work, things like that."

The issue is complicated by the fact that Manchester United plc chairman, Sir Roland Smith, is solidly behind Ferguson, and Edwards is under pressure to improve the situation by offering United's most successful manager a seat on the board. So far, he has resisted such a move.

Edwards, who inherited control of United on the death of his father, Louis, recently cut his holding to 6.5 per cent from 14 per cent, a deal that netted him some £41million and made Rupert Murdoch's BSkyB, with a 9.9 per cent stake, the largest single shareholder in the club.

After its takeover bid for United was rejected last year, BSkyB has pursued a new strategy, buying similar stakes in Leeds and Manchester City. This has raised concerns that the broadcaster could exert undue influence, particularly when Leeds were drawn against City in the fourth round of the FA Cup.

While United were busy in Brazil, Leeds blew their chance to extend their lead at the top of the Premiership, losing 2-0 at Arsenal, then going down 2-1 at home to Aston Villa. There were also disappointing results for the chasing pack, notably Sunderland, who over the holiday period were hammered 5-0 at Everton – where theatre impresario Bill Kenwright has finally taken control, promising stability and the injection of some cash – then squandered a 2-0 lead over Manchester United, allowing the champions to snatch a 2-2 draw. Finally, Sunderland had no luck in a 1-0 defeat at Wimbledon.

Chelsea's title challenge is all but over. They lost 2-0 at home to Leeds and had Frank Leboeuf sent off for stamping on Harry Kewell. This led to a four-match ban for the Frenchman and prompted Chelsea's purchase of Brazilian Emerson Thome from Sheffield Wednesday as defensive cover.

SCOTLAND

Dodds takes on new challenge

THE year ended in traditional fashion for Scottish football, with all four of its representatives in European competition being eliminated from their respective tournaments well before Christmas.

After Celtic, Kilmarnock and St Johnstone suffered early exits from the UEFA Cup, Rangers, taking part in the tournament following their failure to progress in the Champions League, squandered a 2-0 lead over Borussia Dortmund and eventually succumbed to the Germans on penalties.

Manager Dick Advocaat, keen to ensure that his team was suitably equipped to retain the Scottish title and thereby secure a further opportunity to compete among Europe's elite, moved swiftly into the transfer market and signed Billy Dodds from Dundee United for around £2.3million.

Advocaat clearly felt the need for a proven goalscorer following injuries to Michael Mols, Gabriel Amato and Jonatan Johansson, and a series of indifferent performances from Rod Wallace.

At 30, Dodds has been written off as a stop-gap signing, but he sees the situation from a different angle. He points to the success enjoyed by Wallace, also now 30, who arrived at Ibrox on a free transfer in summer 1998. Dodds feels that if he can hit the net with similar regularity, then players such as Mols and Amato will have to work hard to displace him.

A comparatively late developer at top level, Dodds made his living as a journeyman professional with Chelsea, St Johnstone, Dundee and Aberdeen before a transfer to Dundee United helped him discover a rich vein of goalscoring form. This

New goals...Billy Dodds hopes to hit the target with Rangers

in turn led to him becoming a first-choice striker for Scotland.

Advocaat also signed Turkish international Tugay Kerimoglu from Galatasaray. He is highly rated by former Rangers manager Graeme Souness, who helped develop the player during his spell in charge at Gala and feels that Tugay's vision will provide Rangers with an additional dimension in Europe.

Celtic also went into the international market, signing Brazilian defender Rafael Scheidt from Gremio for a club record fee of £4.5m. They are confident that Scheidt will be given a work permit, even though he did not appear in 75 per cent of his country's international fixtures during the period laid down by the regulations.

Slovenia captain Robert Tomaschek has joined Hearts from Slovan Bratislava, and arrives together with goalkeeper Antti Niemi from Rangers, midfielder Fitzroy Simpson from Manchester City, and defender Gordan Petric, following a spell in Turkey.

Petric's arrival follows the refusal of Hearts manager Jim Jefferies to consider international defender Paul Ritchie for first-team duty. Ritchie, who has six months of his contract remaining, has made it clear that he intends leaving in the summer, almost certainly to join Rangers, and Jefferies sees no mileage in continuing to select a player whose priorities are likely to lie elsewhere.

Alan Fairley

WALES

Barry facing a five-way threat

THE championship battle looks like being the hottest for years as six clubs continue to fight for top spot. Leaders and reigning champions Barry Town were four points ahead but all the chasing pack had played fewer matches. Cwmbran Town were second on goal difference from Carmarthen Town and Total Network Solutions.

Carmarthen have recovered from a slump in form and a 2-0 win at Newtown improved their confidence. Such is the team spirit at Richmond Park that players are turning down moves to other clubs, and higher wages, to remain with Tomi Morgan's squad.

TNS, under Dr Andy Cale, have strengthened their squad by tempting John Toner from Conwy United and Nicky Ward of Newtown to sign up.

Bangor City are also going well and shot up the table after winning seven successive games, which earned Meirion Appleton consecutive Manager of the Month awards.

Four League of Wales board members resigned after failing to get support from the FA of Wales Council for proposals designed to take the League forward. FAW secretary- general David Collins refused to meet the League to discuss the proposals.

Mel Thomas

N. IRELAND

McIlroy's the man

SAMMY McILROY, the former Manchester United midfielder, has been appointed national team manager as successor to Lawrie McMenemy.

The 45-year-old, capped 88 times by Northern Ireland, has an initial two-year tenure, which takes in a tough 2002 World Cup qualifying programme against the Czech Republic, Denmark, Bulgaria, Iceland and Malta.

McIlroy, who has been released from his job as manager of Macclesfield, of the English Third Division, was the obvious candidate once Martin O'Neill made it clear he could not combine running Leicester City and the national side.

Glentoran won the first domestic trophy of the season when they beat favourites Linfield 4-2 in the Final of the Nationwide Gold Cup at Windsor Park.

But Linfield, who had the consolation of seeing striker Glenn Ferguson making his first appearance of the season as a second-half substitute, held sway in the League.

Any hopes that Glentoran might have had of denting Linfield's 13-point advantage were dashed in the games immediately after the Final.

Ferguson scored the second goal as Linfield beat struggling Cliftonville 3-1, and he followed up with two more in a 4-1 win away to bottom club Lisburn Distillery.

Across the city at the Oval, Glentoran were giving one of their worst performances for some time as they went down 3-0 to Newry Town, followed by a 4-0 defeat at Portadown.

With over half the League programme gone, only Glenavon and perhaps the improving Coleraine look to have even the remotest chance of stopping Linfield from taking their first League title since 1995.

Roy Kitson

Pro-file Titi Camara

Guinean playing from the heart in Liverpool

IN THESE days of bloated transfer fees, Liverpool picked up a bargain when they signed Guinea international striker Titi Camara from Marseille last summer for just £2.6million.

With regular forwards Michael Owen and Robbie Fowler struggling with injuries recently, Camara has suddenly found himself to be the mainstay of the Liverpool attack.

And how well he has done in his first few months in England. He went into the Christmas programme as Liverpool's top scorer with six League goals, and has proved an all-round attacking godsend thanks to his pace, strength and a new-found unselfishness.

"I always believed I would adore the tradition and passion of the game in England," says Camara. "But my move to Liverpool has exceeded all my expectations. I've played for France's three best-supported clubs – Saint-Etienne, Lens and Marseille – but although the fans there can whip up a great atmosphere, it is even better at Anfield and other English grounds. The proximity of the fans, the noise, the intensity, really fires me up.

"A transfer to Liverpool was one which could not be refused. I had the chance to go to a legendary European club and one which has the quality players to win trophies. It was also reassuring that Liverpool had a French coach in Gerard Houllier. He is an excellent coach, knows all about my strengths and weaknesses, and can make me a better player."

Good call. After just a few months with Houllier, Camara already looks far more accomplished than he did during the last two years at Marseille, where wasteful finishing and a surfeit of substitute appearances restricted him to eight League goals.

Though Camara's spectacular, wholehearted style won the hearts of the bulk of OM supporters, the hard truth was that he was too erratic, too much of a soloist for his own good. But at Liverpool he runs offside considerably less often, has found an ability to bring other people into the game, and is a much more composed finisher. Even so, Houllier must be only too aware of the dangers of attempting to dampen Camara's natural flair.

"Titi's great strength is his unpredictability," France striker Tony Vairelles says of his former Lens team-mate.

"He has an unusual way of dribbling and shooting, and plays with his heart rather than calculating. That's why he surprises opponents. If you took away his style, you'd kill him."

Nick Bidwell

Fact file

Club Liverpool (Eng)
Country Guinea
Born November 17, 1972, in Conakry
Previous clubs AS Kaloum Conakry, Ambert, Saint-Etienne (Fra), Lens (Fra), Marseille (Fra)

Beenhakker: It's time to go

Feyenoord's veteran coach gets ready for his home city swansong. Klaas-Jan Droppert reports

HOLLAND

FEYENOORD coach Leo Beenhakker has confirmed that he will retire at the end of the season. "It's time to say goodbye to the most beautiful job in the world," he said on the day after the club's impressive Champions League win over Marseille. His announcement came as no surprise because he always wanted to finish his career at Feyenoord, in his home city of Rotterdam.

Beenhakker, 57, has coached all round the globe and has put together an impressive record during his 35 years in football. He had spells with Ajax, Real Madrid, the Dutch national team, in Mexico and Saudi Arabia, but the desire to coach Feyenoord never disappeared. Bert Van Marwijk, currently at Fortuna Sittard, will be his successor.

Another manager moving on is NEC's Jim Calderwood, who returns to Scotland to take the reins at Dunfermline.

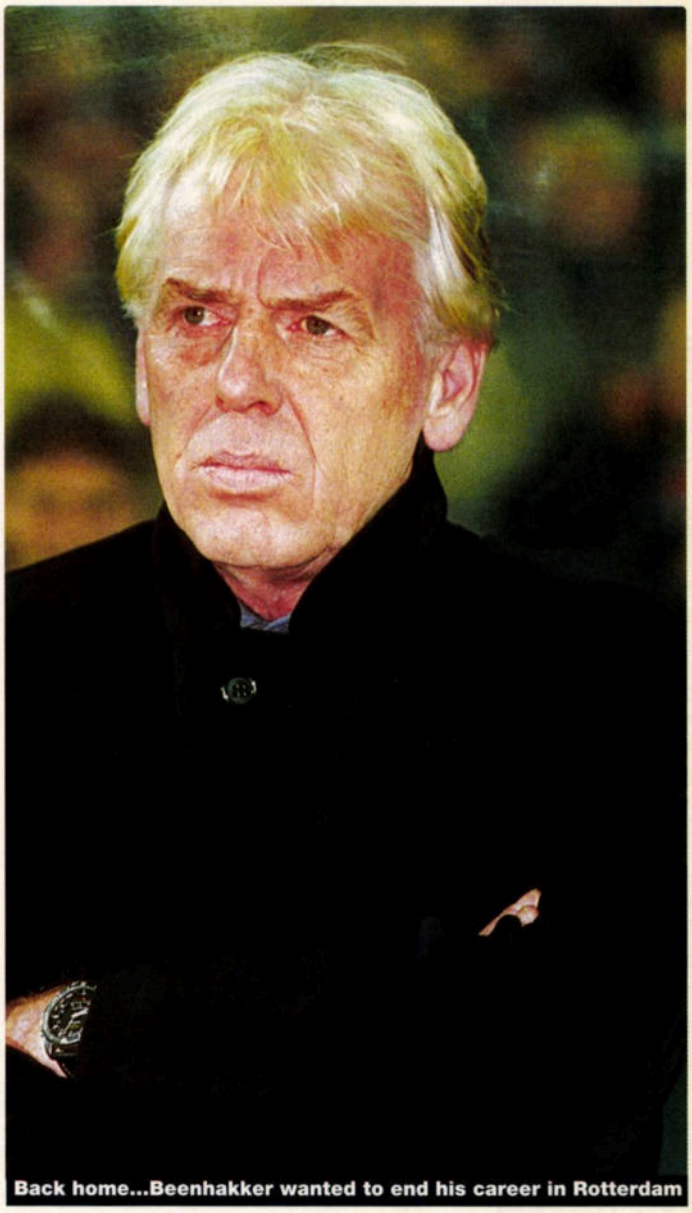
Meanwhile, bottom club Den Bosch are in heavy financial trouble, a situation that led to the board's resignation.

Spare a thought for Utrecht. They lost 4-3 twice within a week despite having a comfortable lead in both games. They were 3-0 in front but lost at Cambuur, and then were beaten by Willem II after being 3-1 ahead. In their next match Utrecht recovered with a 1-1 draw against PSV, who took over as the new League leaders following a 3-1 win at Ajax.

Ajax have never won against PSV at home since moving to the Amsterdam Arena, and their difficulties were not eased after elimination from the UEFA Cup by Mallorca.

National team coach Frank Rijkaard was relieved after Holland were drawn with the Republic of Ireland, Portugal, Cyprus, Estonia and Andorra in the 2002 World Cup qualifiers.

But he was less optimistic about the Euro 2000 draw, which put the Dutch in with France, the Czech Republic and Denmark.



Back home...Beenhakker wanted to end his career in Rotterdam

BELGIUM

Relegation threat causes early sackings

FEAR of relegation has cost two coaches their jobs at struggling clubs with the season only halfway through.

Croatian Luka Peruzovic, in charge at Charleroi only since the summer, has been replaced by Raymond Mommens, promoted from the club's technical staff.

Mommens, winner of a European Nations Cup runners-up medal with Belgium in 1980, got off to a bad start with a 3-0 defeat at Anderlecht.

But Harn Van Veldhoven, who took over from Jos Daerden at Lommel, had an even worse debut – a 2-0 Cup defeat away to Mons, the Third Division leaders. Mons, in the last eight for the first time, now have to visit Standard Liege, who beat Westerlo 2-1 in a match in which three men were sent off in the last seven minutes.

Holders Lierse beat Antwerp 2-1 in extra time, and Genk romped to an 8-1 victory against Ingelmunster, the Second Division club who had beaten Anderlecht in the previous round. Croatian Zoran Ban scored a hat-trick, thus dispelling fears that Genk might suffer from selling Branko Strupar to Derby County.

The quarter-finals will be played on February 27 but may well be upstaged by the League meeting of Anderlecht and Club Brugge, which has been rearranged for that day and could have a vital effect on the championship.

Nicholas Harling

SWITZERLAND

Pay snub spells curtains for Gress

GILBERT GRESS, the national coach, did not deign to respond to an offer from the Swiss FA – a two-year extension of his contract – after his demand for an increase of £44,000 to his annual salary of £225,000 was turned down.

Marcel Mathier, SFA president and chairman of the seven-member central committee, withdrew the offer when the extended deadline passed without any response.

Now Gress, 58, will step down at the end of June, when his original contract expires.

Mathier said: "Gilbert Gress is an internationally known and very experienced trainer who has brought order into chaos and has moulded a team which has gained respect on the field. But he failed in the primary objective, which was European

Stepping down...Gilbert Gress

Championship qualification. Only success merits reward."

Gress said blandly: "I need motivation. I would not be motivated under the same terms."

With the Swiss media perennially polarised on linguistic lines, Gress, a Frenchman who holds Swiss citizenship, blamed a hostile press for worsening a sensitive subject by disclosing his earnings.

St Gallen, as expected, clinched the title of winter champions by beating Servette and Grasshopper. They finished with 45 points, ahead of Basle (37), Lausanne (36), Grasshopper (34), and newcomers Yverdon, the surprise of the qualifying rounds (30).

Reigning champions Servette were spared the indignity of being consigned to the promotion/relegation play-offs with a timely home win against Grasshopper in the penultimate round.

Bottom-of-the-table Delemont registered their first away win at the expense of Lugano, who were still without a coach after the club's Italian bosses fired Giuliano Sonzogni.

Ivar von Rulach

PORTUGAL

Benfica given Sporting lessons

AT the holiday break the situation in the League was much the same as last year – FC Porto were on top, having defeated both their main rivals, Benfica and Sporting Lisbon, at home.

Sporting, though playing well since the arrival of new coach Augusto Inacio, are still 'only' second, but just as they are showing the sort of form that could take them into contention for the championship, they appear to be on the verge of selling a number of important players. Argentine midfielder Aldo Duscher, for example, was being linked with a £10million move to Parma. Despite this, many expect Sporting to maintain their challenge for the title.

The players certainly seem to be in the mood for it, and their fighting spirit was exemplified in the home game against Maritimo. Having gone 2-0 up, they then saw their lead disappear, but battled on with great spirit and ended up 4-2 winners. Duscher and goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel were among the stars.

Third-placed Benfica are going from weakness to weakness, with many people putting the blame on coach Jupp Heynckes.

Even though many of the old financial problems have been solved, the team do not play with conviction. Their recent defeat at Vitoria Guimaraes was due largely to a failure to assert themselves.

Alberto da Silva

Moving on?...Aldo Duscher

REP IRELAND

Cassidy's plea for joint league

IN THE light of the continuing period of peace, there have been calls for the formation of an All-Ireland League.

New Sligo Rovers manager Tommy Cassidy has experience on both sides of the border, having also managed Glentoran and Ards in the Irish League, and he feels that the time is now right for the formation of a joint league.

"Games such as Linfield against Shelbourne and Glentoran against Shamrock Rovers would be a massive draw," says Cassidy. "One league, fewer clubs, is the only way forward, and the political climate is right for change. A better product will lead to a greater profile in Europe."

The FAI will not appeal against the £5,000 fine and four-match ban UEFA imposed on Tony Cascarino following the ugly scenes at the end of the Euro 2000 second-leg play-off against Turkey in Bursa, after which Cascarino announced his retirement from international soccer. But the ban could stop him from playing in May, when he and Steve Staunton are due to hold a joint testimonial.

Martin Lawlor has left Drogheda to be replaced by Eddie May, previously in charge of Dundalk.

Sean Creedon

Pro-file Richard Knopper

Litmanen's successor revelling in the role

BERGKAMP, Litmanen and now Richard Knopper. Against all the odds, Ajax continue to unearth players to fill that vital, deep-lying position which connects attack and defence.

When Dennis Bergkamp joined Internazionale in summer 1993, many people thought Ajax would never find an adequate replacement. Yet along came Jari Litmanen and he played the role so perfectly that soon no one talked about Bergkamp anymore.

The Finn's departure for Barcelona last summer once again prompted concerns about the Ajax playing system and after the highly-experienced Brian Laudrup and others failed to look the part just behind the front-line, there seemed nowhere else to go. That was until Knopper, a 22-year-old graduate from the youth ranks, created such a solid impression that he made the role his own.

His contribution so far this season cannot be underestimated. His skill, determination and especially his goals – nine in the first 10 League matches – have proved crucial to Ajax's championship challenge.

Extremely confident and forthright, Knopper says he is not surprised at his success. He points out that he had seen himself as a would-be successor to Litmanen for quite a while and thus spent much time last year closely watching the Finn.

"I've tried to copy Litmanen's style," he says. "I've studied his moves, the choices he made on the pitch. We've talked a lot. Jari gave me valuable advice. I've learned a lot from him."

According to Knopper, playing in a position with so much responsibility is not difficult. "I'm used to it because I've been playing there for the last six years," he says. "The big thing is you mustn't be afraid to fail. Mentally you must be strong. That's where a lot of players went wrong."

No empty words. So far, his career has been marked by a total absence of fear. Not everybody has the wherewithal to deal with a switch from Feyenoord to arch-rivals Ajax at the age of 16, but Knopper managed it.

He was convinced the Ajax system would suit him far better and has since been thoroughly vindicated. He made his first-team debut in November 1997, and this season has become a permanent fixture. However, at national level Knopper remains uncapped in the face of stiff competition from the more experienced Ronald De Boer, Philip Cocu and Clarence Seedorf.

For the moment, he will have to content himself with playing for the Olympic side. But look out for Knopper after Euro 2000. We already know what he can achieve when he sets his heart on something.

Klaas-Jan Droppert

Fact file

Club Ajax
Country Holland
Born August 29, 1977, in Rijswijk
Previous club Feyenoord
Honours
Dutch League 1998 (Ajax); Dutch Cup 1999

Accolade...Liverpool's Sami Hyypia

Hyypia earns top honour

The Liverpool man has won instant recognition, writes Pentti Hietanen

FINLAND

LIVERPOOL stopper – and recently emergency captain – Sami Hyypia has been named Finland's Player of the Year, a title that had become the sole property of Jari Litmanen throughout the 1990s.

Hyypia, 26, has made an impressive start at Anfield, but he refuses to get carried away.

He says: "In football, your luck can change very quickly. People who praise you today can stab you in the back tomorrow. I just try to concentrate on my job and give my best."

What a tough start the draw for the 2002 World Cup qualifiers has given new national coach, Antti Muurinen. Finland were placed in perhaps Europe's toughest group, alongside Germany, England, Greece and Albania.

One local paper said: "We are eliminated from the finals even before a ball has been kicked."

But Muurinen refuses to give in. "The margins in top-class football today are very small," he says. "We must keep our home record intact and hope that there will be a few surprises in matches between other teams."

Finland to qualify for the World Cup ahead of Germany and England? Please, place your bets!

SWEDEN

Tommy and Lars team up

THE NATIONAL team will go into Euro 2000 with co-managers after Tommy Soderberg promoted the idea of officially making assistant coach Lars Lagerback his partner.

"Tommy and Lars have done an extraordinary job together," said FA president Lars-Ake Lagrell, "and Tommy thought joint leadership would make the Swedish organisation and team stronger."

Although Sweden got a tough draw for the Euro 2000 finals – Italy, Turkey and Belgium – Soderberg was oozing confidence. "At this stage, there are only strong teams left to face," he said. "When the tournament begins, Sweden will be ready."

Belgium coach Robert Waseige says that the best current Swedish player is Anderlecht's Par Zetterberg. Alas, Zetterberg recently confirmed that he will not play for Soderberg's team again. This has caused some distress, and other national team players have accused the midfielder of too much whining.

By contrast, Sweden had a lucky draw for the 2002 World Cup: of their group opponents only Turkey have previously played in the finals.

AIK lost left-back Tomas Gustafsson to Coventry, but are set to sign Teddy Lucic from Bologna. Perhaps most importantly, coach Stuart Baxter has decided to stay for two years more.

Pentti Hietanen

Controversy...Par Zetterberg

NORWAY

Semb to go in 2002

JUST days after the draw for the 2002 World Cup qualifiers, national team manager Nils Johan Semb announced that he will retire when the tournament is over.

"The job does, of course, lead to a lot of attention from the media," said Semb. "That is not a problem really, but four years in this job seems enough. I look forward to the remaining two and a half years but as it is now I want to quit in 2002."

The draw itself put Norway into Group 5 with Ukraine, Poland, Wales, Armenia and Belarus.

Set to quit...Nils Johan Semb

"This group is tougher than the one we had for qualification to Euro 2000," said Semb. "I do admit that we are among the favourites to go through, but the group will be very even and we are in for some exciting matches."

As Rosenborg prepare for the remaining matches in the Champions League, they continue to strengthen their squad. Winger Morten Knutsen was signed from newly-promoted Start for a total of £1million, depending on the number of matches played.

Roger Nilsen has decided to return to Norway after many years abroad. The former Sheffield United and Tottenham player broke his contract with Austria's Grazer AK after just half a season and signed for Molde.

Another player returning home is Erik Nevland, who has had a rather disappointing period with Manchester United. The 22-year-old felt that his career would benefit from a move to his old club, Viking.

Relegated Stromsgodset have seen their talented midfielder Osman Nyan depart for Panathinaikos, where he joins compatriot Erik Mykland.

Sigurd Odegaard

DENMARK

Schmeichel swoops for Hvidovre

PETER SCHMEICHEL bought his old club Hvidovre over Christmas and has vowed to the fans to do an 'Alex Ferguson' for it.

The Danish international, currently at Sporting Lisbon, spent three seasons with Hvidovre, who have had a turbulent time since Schmeichel left more than a decade ago. They slumped into non-league, but rose back again and are currently just below mid-table in Division One.

Announcing his takeover as club president, Schmeichel revealed that he will model his regime on the one he encountered at Manchester United. "I see a club I want to build from the bottom up, as [Alex Ferguson] did with United," said the 36-year-old. "For the moment I will have to find people who will take care of the day-to-day work while I finish my career in Lisbon. Then, in a year or two, I will return – not as a player, but perhaps as a manager."

Schmeichel also has Euro 2000 to look forward to, though the draw could hardly have been worse. In what the Scandinavians call a Granite Group, Denmark will face the Czech Republic, Holland and France.

Jim Holden

ICELAND

Sad end to 1999

THE YEAR ended on a sad note for Icelandic football, with news of the death of ex-international forward Thorolfur Beck, at the age of only 59.

A prolific goalscorer, Beck began his career in 1957 with KR before moving to Scotland, with St Mirren and Rangers, and later France (Rouen) and the USA (St Louis).

Capped 20 times by his country, who he captained four times, Beck returned home in 1968 to help his former club to the championship.

During the winter shutdown at home most attention has been focused on English Second Division side Stoke City, following the club's takeover by a consortium of Icelandic businessmen, and the installation as manager of ex-national coach Gudjon Thordarson.

Iceland's new manager is former international skipper Atli Edvaldsson, who took KR to the League and Cup double last summer. Another ex-international, striker Petur Petursson, was named as the new man at KR.

Rab Christie

Pro-file Mattias Asper

A future king of his country's keepers

WELCOME to the Mattias Asper fan club. Big-name admirers have been queuing up of late to pay tribute to the AIK Stockholm keeper.

Barcelona coach Louis Van Gaal described Asper as "a really exceptional goalkeeper" after his side's 2-1 Champions League win at AIK in September; former Spain number one Luis Arconada spoke of discovering a "brilliant and spectacular raw talent"; while Ronnie Hellstrom, Sweden's keeper during the 1970s and early 1980s, sings a similar tune.

"It's clear Asper is a fantastic prospect," says Hellstrom. "He's acrobatic, athletic and obviously his massive frame – 1.97m and 94kg – is a great advantage. There are a few rough edges in his game, but I don't doubt he'll eradicate them as he gains experience. Don't forget that only two years ago he was playing in the Swedish Second Division."

Asper has come a long way since joining AIK from home-town club Mjallby at the start of the 1998 season. At first, the country boy was uneasy with life in the suburbs of the capital, and, to make matters worse, he thought that he might face unfair competition for the goalkeeping jersey from Lee Baxter, son of AIK coach Stuart Baxter. But it's a different story now.

"I've grown fond of Stockholm," says Asper, 25. "And in my first training session, I saw how professional both Stuart and Lee were, and my mind was put at rest."

Stuart Baxter's meritocratic outlook proved the making of Asper. His maturity and flair for making match-winning saves were instrumental in his club taking the 1998 League title, and he continued to hog the headlines over the past season.

In the 1999 campaign he set a Swedish record by keeping his goal intact for 797 minutes, and Asper further underlined his potential with an excellent performance in that home tie with Barcelona, notably producing a wonderful reflex stop from a point-blank Patrick Kluivert header.

Asper is improving all the time, but despite his brilliance over the past two seasons, he remains only third in the pecking order for the national team behind Coventry's Magnus Hedman and Magnus Kihlstedt of Brann Bergen in Norway.

Not that Asper is concerned. "In this kind of matter it is no use blowing your own trumpet," he says. "I can only do my best in matches and leave the decision to the coach, Tommy Soderberg."

Asper can afford to be philosophical. At his current rate of progress, it should only be a question of time before Soderberg obliges.

Pentti Hietanen

Fact file

Club AIK Stockholm
Country Sweden
Born March 20, 1974, in Mjallby
Previous club Mjallby
Honours Swedish League 1998; Swedish Cup 1999

Contract suspended...Zlatko Zahovic (right)

Investigators point the finger

Lou Economopoulos on the domestic game's latest scandal

GREECE

TWO TOP Greek soccer officials and defending champions Olympiakos have been indicted by prosecutors investigating allegations of match-fixing and bribery. Eight other First Division teams have also been under investigation.

The probe into the alleged match-fixing and claims that the 1997 federation elections were rigged began a year ago. Those charged were federation general secretary Vassilis Gagatsis and Thomas Mitropoulos, president of the professional Greek soccer clubs association and a former Olympiakos official.

The federation's board of directors fully backed Gagatsis and said the indictment was based on "unsubstantiated allegations", the same words used by Olympiakos. Federation president Sotiris Alimisis expressed anger that the prosecutor did not invite Gagatsis or other federation members to testify.

Meanwhile Olympiakos have had problems with their two foreign stars. The federation fined midfielder Zlatko Zahovic £60,000 and suspended his contract for six months. The Slovenian was referred to the governing body after he made press statements saying he was unhappy with his new team and for violating terms of his contract.

The other bad news for Olympiakos is that Brazilian striker Giovanni is sidelined for at least three months following a leg operation.

After a series of bad performances, PAOK fired Dutch coach Arie Haan.

Internazionale's Greek star Grigoris Georgatos was voted Player of the Year for 1999 by the Greek players' union. Dusan Bayevic was voted Best Coach, Olympiakos' Cypriot striker Sinisa Gogic won the Best Foreign Player award, Ilias Atmatsidis of AEK Athens was named Goalkeeper of the Year, and OFI Crete's Nikos Iordanidis was voted Best New Player.

The national team ended the year with a 2-2 friendly result against Estonia in Trikala. Before that, the Greeks had beaten Moldova 2-0 and drawn 1-1 with Ghana.

TURKEY

Gala march on

GALATASARAY qualified for the fourth round of the UEFA Cup by beating Bologna, despite the fact that they were missing several key players. These included playmaker Gheorghe Hagi, striker Arif, and midfielders Ergun and Hakan Unsal.

After a 1-1 draw in Italy, the return in Istanbul was won 2-1, Umit Davala and Hasan Sas scoring the goals. Hasan Sas proved a good replacement for Arif, while Emre has shown he can perform well in Hagi's role.

The squad was further strengthened with the arrival of Sergen Yalcin from Fenerbahce. Sergen had been on loan to Fenerbahce from the Jet-Pa sports company, which holds his contract. But under the regulations, Sergen could only play for another Turkish team if he first made a contract with a foreign club. So he signed a one-day agreement with Macedonian side Sloga Jugomagnat.

In the Cup, Second Division Canakkale Dardanelspor defeated Besiktas 1-0, while Pendikspor, also from Division Two, beat Fenerbahce 2-1.

Fenerbahce also lost the postponed home derby against Galatasaray, 2-1. This gave Gala 32 points from 13 games, seven more than Gaziantepspor in second.

In the draw for the 2002 World Cup, Turkey were pitted against Sweden, Slovakia, Macedonia, Azerbaijan and Moldova. "It could have been worse," said national coach Mustafa Denizli, who also appeared confident following the Euro 2000 finals draw, which put Turkey in with Italy, Sweden and Belgium. Denizli said: "This time we won't be the underdogs."

Hasan Cemali

ISRAEL

Moller Nielsen takes charge

RICHARD MOLLER NIELSEN has been appointed as Israel's national coach, on a contract that will take him through to the 2002 World Cup.

"I have seen the facilities, which are excellent, and I am very eager to get to work," said the Dane, who was previously in charge of Finland during the Euro 2000 qualifiers.

The final report on the indiscretions of the international squad before the first leg of the Euro 2000 play-offs concluded that four players had cavorted with call girls two nights prior to the game, against Denmark. The players' identities had reportedly been established but were being kept secret "to avoid family strife", according to a federation official.

In the League, Maccabi Haifa and Hapoel Tel Aviv have been setting the pace.

Ori Lewis

YUGOSLAVIA

Old guard threatened

THE NATIONAL team were drawn with Spain, Norway and Slovenia in the Euro 2000 finals, and Russia, Switzerland, Slovenia, the Faroe Islands and Luxembourg in the 2002 World Cup qualifiers.

But while the groupings were deemed to be very satisfactory by most observers, national coach Vujadin Boskov delivered the headlines by indicating that Dragan Stojkovic and Dejan Savicevic are no longer part of his plans. He told the press: "One can't neglect the age. All players must be fit to play 90 minutes. Stojkovic [34] and Savicevic [33] are great footballers, they gave a lot to Yugoslav soccer, but everyone has his beginning and his end."

The League's autumn campaign concluded with Obilic on top, two points ahead of Partizan.

Vladimir Novak

SLOVENIA

Katanec draws up battle plan

THE DRAW for the Euro 2000 finals put Slovenia alongside Spain, Yugoslavia and Norway, and few are

Days numbered...Stojkovic

expecting the team to make the last eight. Nevertheless, coach Srecko Katanec has outlined what he feels it will take to qualify: "We need to start with a draw against Yugoslavia, then we would make it to the second round with one win. Four points should be enough."

In the League, Maribor took a seven-point lead into the winter break, with Olimpia and HIT Gorica joint second.

Zdravko Reic

CROATIA

Players show respect for Tudjman

THE YEAR ended with the death of state president Franjo Tudjman, who was also FC Croatia's honorary president. Among the players who were in the country to pay their respects were internationals Slaven Bilic and Zvonimir Boban. National coach Miroslav Blazevic was also in attendance.

Former FC Croatia boss Osvaldo Ardiles has decided not to press charges against the club after they paid his remaining salary as well as £400,000 compensation.

Zdravko Reic

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

Drago can welcome more aboard

DRAGO SMAJLOVIC, formerly with Zeljeznicar Sarajevo, has taken over from Faruk Hadzibegic as national team coach, and he could well have a bigger pool of players to choose from. This is because a number of Croatians born in Bosnia-Herzegovina have now shown a willingness to appear for the national side, including Igor Musa (Hajduk Split), Mario Bazina (FC Croatia), and Stanko Bubalo (Osijek).

There was much controversy after Mirko Kljajic became the first Croatian to appear for Bosnia in the recent game against a Germany 'B' side, but now relations have improved between the ethnic entities within Bosnia.

Zdravko Reic

MACEDONIA

Investment gives boost

THERE was a mixed reaction to the draw for the 2002 World Cup qualifiers, which grouped Macedonia with Sweden, Turkey, Slovakia, Azerbaijan and Moldova. "The opponents are not so attractive, but it won't be easy," said national coach Dragan Kanatlarovski. "We'll try to make problems for the favourites."

But international forward Sasa Ciric said that Macedonia could not have got an easier group.

New investment in football by state enterprises has led to a flurry of activity in the transfer market, with many Macedonian internationals returning home from foreign clubs. The latest to come back were expected to be Srdjan Zaharievski and Viktor Trenevski.

Michel Stojmanovski

ALBANIA

Upbeat view of 2002

LEADING figures in Albanian soccer were surprisingly upbeat after the draw for the 2002 World Cup qualifiers. England, Germany, Greece and Finland are the other nations in Albania's group, and anything other than bottom place will be a major surprise. However, federation president Mico Papadhopulli expressed satisfaction with the outcome. "I'm pleased that we'll have a chance to show where we rank in international football," he said.

National team captain Rudi Vata said: "It will be very difficult to beat England, and Germany are always hard to defeat in tournaments. But we are not afraid of anyone."

On the home front, Dinamo coach Saruk Sejdini has been sacked after a run of poor results.

Gezim Nushi

MALTA

Friendly ends in brawl

MALTA'S last international of the century, a so-called friendly against Lebanon, was abandoned after a mass brawl erupted on the pitch with six minutes remaining.

Malta had just taken a deserved lead through a Carabott penalty in the 79th minute when Lebanese defender Youssef Mohamad threw a punch at Maltese player Antoine Zahra.

The ensuing fighting continued until the Lebanon team was ordered off the pitch by their own officials.

On a positive note, the Maltese FA announced an investment of £5million to build a new 'Millennium' stand at the National stadium.

In the League, Birkirkara continued their march towards their first title, a 1-0 win against Pieta being enough to keep them seven points ahead of Valletta at the top.

Domenico Aquilina

NEXT MONTH

- The full story of how the first World Club Championship was won

PLUS

- EURO 2000 COUNTDOWN
  More men who matter
- CLUB FOCUS ON ROMA

MARCH ISSUE ON SALE FEB 4

Curtianu assaulted

Victor Gusev reports a vicious attack on a star player

RUSSIA

ONE of the top footballers in Russia, Zenit midfielder Alexandre Curtianu, was attacked by four strangers outside his St Petersburg apartment in December, and his injuries were so bad that there were fears initially that his career might be jeopardised.

The assault left the 25-year-old Moldovan international with head injuries, and he was also robbed of his wallet, jacket, shoes and even his belt.

However, a fortnight after the incident, doctors said Curtianu should be able to resume his career following a further month of treatment.

The assault follows on from the acid attack on Rotor player Oleg Veretennikov a year ago in Volgograd. Fortunately neither Veretennikov nor his two-year-old daughter, who was also hit, suffered severe burns.

Beaten and robbed...Alexandre Curtianu

BELARUS

Easy for Bate

BATE BORISOV took the title by a clear 12 points, after recording 24 wins, five draws and just one defeat.

Slavia Mozyr finished runners-up and also lost out in the Cup Final, going down 4-2 on penalties against Belshina Bobruisk after a 1-1 draw.

Dinamo Minsk coach Yuri Kurnenin was fined £70 by the federation after kicking his opposite number at Bate, Yuri Pudyshev. The pair were team-mates at Dinamo 20 years ago.

Sergei Borovsky has been named national coach for the second time, and replaces Mikhail Vergenko.

Vladimir Kalinkovich

ARMENIA

Farcical finish as Shirak take title

SHIRAK GYUMRI won the League by a point from Ararat but were lucky to escape punishment after a farcical finish to the season.

In their final game, Shirak beat FC Gyumri 15-5, a freak scoreline that resulted from the club's desire to see their striker Yepranosian finish as League top scorer. He got eight in the game, but the FA stepped in to change the result to a more modest 3-0 victory. This meant that Tsement's Sarikian finished at the head of the scorers' chart and took the bonus prize.

Varuzhan Sukiasian is the new head coach of the national team.

Vladimir Kalinkovich

POLAND

Smuda makes it three

LEGIA WARSAW boss Franciszek Smuda has been voted Manager of the Year for the third time, in the annual poll conducted by the magazine *Pilka Nozna*.

Smuda made his name with Widzew, taking them to the League title in 1996 and 1997. Last year he was a champion again, with Wisla Krakow, before joining Legia in October.

Experienced Legia defender Jacek Zielinski was voted Footballer of the Year. His consistency has made him one of the most important players for both club and country during the 1990s.

Adam Kompala, who plays for Gornik Zabrze, was named Discovery of the Year. He was leading the scorers' chart at the winter break with 10 League goals.

Former international Zbigniew Boniek was voted the best Polish player ever in another poll, to celebrate the FA's 80th anniversary.

Kazimierz Gorski, who led the national team to Olympic gold in 1972, third place in the World Cup in 1974 and Olympic silver two years later, was named best Polish coach.

Dariusz Kurowski

AUSTRIA

Satisfaction for Sturm

STURM GRAZ, who lay second behind FC Tirol at the winter break, had a very satisfactory autumn. Their Champions League performances were better than expected and third place in Group D meant a UEFA Cup clash with Parma. Defeat after extra time, on away goals, was harsh.

The national team did not have much luck in the World Cup draw. Euro 2000 qualifying opponents Spain and Israel are once again in the same group, giving Austria not only tough ties but also making it harder to attract a decent crowd to the Prater.

Bob Vaughan

BULGARIA

Dimitrov to Levski

NATIONAL coach Dimitar Dimitrov has quit after signing an 18-month contract with Levski Sofia. Dimitrov, who only recently agreed to an extension to his Bulgaria deal, said that he could not do both jobs.

Before football went into its winter sleep, the second legs of the National Cup last 16 were completed. The draw virtually ensured that there were never going to be any big upsets and Black Sea Varna failed to keep the Division Two flag flying against Chernomorets.

CM's neighbours, Neftohimik, fared well against Olympic-Beroe, winning 7-1 on aggregate, but Lok Sofia were made to work hard by lowly Belasitsa before going through. Botev also progressed, beating Minjor, and Shumen overcame poor League form to easily defeat Dobrudzha.

The all-Sofia tie between CSKA and Slavia was closer, with the former winning 3-2 on aggregate, while Levski pipped Lovech on away goals.

Bulgaria were grouped with the Czech Republic and Denmark in the 2002 World Cup qualifiers, which means they are likely to face as many problems as they did when faced with Sweden, England and Poland in the Euro 2000 preliminaries.

Bob Vaughan

CZECH REP

Prague clubs have mixed fortunes

WITH THE return round of top division fixtures beginning before Christmas to help national team preparation in the spring, another tradition went out of the window. However, it enabled Sparta and Slavia to have some match practice before their respective Champions League and UEFA Cup encounters with Barcelona and Steaua Bucharest.

It proved worthwhile for Slavia, who overcame Steaua 5-2 on aggregate. However, against Barcelona in the Champions League, Sparta fell apart after Hasek's 38th minute dismissal and they are now bottom of Group A.

Bob Vaughan

UKRAINE

Shevchenko top of the poll

MILAN forward Andrii Shevchenko was voted Ukraine's Player of the Year for 1999. He topped the poll of more than 600 journalists, football experts and fans, with his former Kyiv Dynamo strike partner Serhii Rebrov in second place and international keeper Olexander Shovkovskyi third.

In the League, Dynamo continued to show their dominance, going into the winter break with a 10-point lead over second-placed Kryvbas. They finished the autumn programme in style, defeating Prykarpattya 6-0, with Rebrov scoring a hat-trick. He is the League top scorer with 12.

Oleg Zadernovsky

HUNGARY

Dunaferr doing well

FOR NEUTRALS there was a pleasing sight as the half-season ended, with

Vote winner...Andrii Shevchenko

the big boys not having it all their own way.

Nobody would have put a forint on Dunaferr SE at the beginning of the season, even though they had engaged former MTK coach Sandor Egervari to train the side. But they are the team the bigger clubs are having to look up to.

MTK, favourites at the start of the season, lay only third at the break, Ferencvaros were mid-table, Kispest-Honved 14th and Vac, champions five years ago, last.

Egervari, the financial support of the local steel industry and striker Attila Tokoli are the main reasons behind Dunaferr's success.

Bob Vaughan

ROMANIA

Early start to second half

WITH national team matters in mind, the federation brought the League programme forward so that return matches were under way before the break. That does not mean, however, that new national team manager Emerich Jenei will have many of his best men available very early, because most are attached to clubs in the West that are likely to be in contention for League titles and involved in the latter stages of European competition.

Dinamo had an 11-point lead over Arges and Rapid at the break, with an ailing Steaua no less than 24 points behind in seventh. Steaua also are out of the UEFA Cup after giving very poor displays against Slavia Prague.

Meanwhile the federation appears to think that success is on the cards at Euro 2000. It has borrowed £1.25million, half of which is to pay bonuses to players.

Bob Vaughan

SLOVAKIA

Prospects look grim

AS FOOTBALL made way for the skiing season, the outlook was bleak for Slovakia's main sport.

The FA, like almost every club, is deeply in debt, and there are no European games to look forward to in the spring.

In addition, the World Cup draw means Slovakia face difficult matches with Sweden and Turkey. From the fans' point of view neither is a particularly attractive draw, and very small crowds can be expected for the home ties with the other countries in Group 4 – Azerbaijan, Macedonia and Moldova.

Bob Vaughan

MOLDOVA

Award for Epureanou

INTERNATIONAL midfielder Serguei Epureanou was named Moldovan Player of the Year in the annual poll of journalists organised by the weekly *Fotbal-hebdo*.

Last season he helped Zimbru Chisinau to the Moldovan title and is now on loan at Turkish side Samsunspor until the summer.

Sergiu Clescenco was second in the poll, followed by Oleg Sishkin.

Miron Goihman

Pro-file Pavel Horvath

Creator in chief for the Czech title challengers

SLAVIA PRAGUE playmaker Pavel Horvath certainly did not rest on his laurels after capping an impressive 1998-99 campaign by scoring the Cup Final winner against Slovan Liberec last May. Indeed, this season he has managed to raise his all-round game to an even higher plane, inspiring Slavia to top spot in the Czech League and into the last 16 of the UEFA Cup.

Realistically, the present Slavia side are unlikely to emulate the European feats of the class of 1995-96, who went all the way to the semi-finals of the UEFA Cup. But their quest for what would be only the club's second League title since 1947 has every chance of a happy ending.

At the winter break, Slavia were still unbeaten after 16 games and held a four-point lead over second-placed Sparta. Now Horvath and his team-mates can feel confident of staying ahead of their more prestigious city rivals.

"We are spurred on by the fact that Sparta seem to assume the League title is theirs of right and that they will be in the Champions League every year," declares Horvath, who joined Slavia from Jablonec in 1996.

"We want to show Sparta they cannot take anything for granted. It was fantastic to beat them in the first derby of this season [a 2-0 win at home in November], but to rob them of the title will be even sweeter."

The Slavia team has many potential match-winners, including sweeper and defensive organiser Karel Rada, attacker Ludek Zelenka and keeper Radek Cerny. Yet the most important department is midfield, where Ivo Ulich, Richard Dostalek, Tomas Kuchar and, above all, Horvath have consistently called the tune.

"Pavel Horvath is all-important to Slavia, and when he is on his game, you usually find that Slavia as a whole are in good shape," says Czech international forward Pavel Kuka, a former Slavia star now with Stuttgart. "Slavia have a lot of good athletes in the team, players who are strong both physically and mentally and will battle for a full 90 minutes. But Horvath gives the team something different. He brings creativity and technique, and it's normal that most of Slavia's best moves start with him. He's the chief."

A place in the Czech Republic's Euro 2000 squad is a near-certainty for Horvath. But with Pavel Nedved, Patrik Berger, Karel Poborsky and Jiri Nemec all taking precedence in the midfield hierarchy of national coach Jozef Chovanec, the Slavia favourite will have to wait patiently for his opportunity. Sooner or later, though, his time will come.

Nick Bidwell

Fact file

Club Slavia Prague
Country Czech Republic
Born April 22, 1975, in Jablonec nad Nisou
Previous club FK Jablonec
International debut February 1999, v Belgium
International caps 6 (0 goals)
Honours Czech Cup 1997 (Slavia), 1999

Corinthians win after battle against time

BRAZIL Brian Homewood reports on the national championship

CORINTHIANS won the Brazilian championship for the second year running, beating Atletico Mineiro in a Final that will best be remembered for the court battle over the kick-off time of the third and decisive match.

Amazingly, the 80,000 fans who had bought tickets awoke on the day of the match without knowing whether it would be in the afternoon or evening.

The CBF had scheduled the match, in Sao Paulo's Morumbi stadium, for the afternoon of the last Wednesday before Christmas, at the request of Globo television. This was a ridiculous time for the showpiece of the season and had been condemned by both teams, supporters, police and traffic authorities.

My ball...Gilmar, of Corinthians, swoops to tackle Atletico Mineiro's Ronildo in the Final

On the evening before the game, a Sao Paulo court granted an injunction to the city council and mayor, Celso Pitta, ordering a start later than 9pm. CBF immediately said it would try to get the injunction overturned. Less than three hours before the original start time, the court upheld the decision to play in the evening.

By then, hundreds had arrived at the stadium, many having travelled great distances and booked their return journey for that evening. The new kick-off time meant they lost money and were left without anywhere to stay in Sao Paulo. Then many were drenched by a torrential downpour during the second half.

Globo was indignant. "Globo television is sorry for the confusion created by mayor Pitta," said a presenter during a sports programme on the day of the match.

"Everyone wants the game to be played at four o'clock," insisted the self-indulgent network, patently manipulating the facts. Later a crestfallen presenter announced: "The decision has been made. Corinthians and Atletico Mineiro will play at 21.40. Globo will show the match."

The episode, two weeks before the start of the World Club Championship in the same stadium, was a severe embarrassment for the CBF, which, remember, is bidding to host the 2006 World Cup. Is Brazil likely to be awarded the tournament in the knowledge that anyone, anywhere, can obtain an injunction changing kick-off times at the last minute?

The game ended 0-0, which was enough to give Corinthians the title on goal difference. Atletico had won the first leg 3-2 and Corinthians the second 2-0. The first match, in Belo Horizonte, was settled by a first-half hat-trick by Atletico's Guilherme, taking his championship total to 28, one short of the record set by Edmundo for Vasco da Gama

1st INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL EXHIBITION

State Kremlin Palace
19-22 JANUARY 2000

For heads of clubs, companies and specialists in football business

The Organizing Committee:
151 office, 18, Kazakova St., 103064, Moscow, Russia,
Tel. (+7 095) 728 7744 Tel./fax (+7 095) 261 2104
E-mail: fmarket@cityline.ru http://www.footballmarket.da.ru

two years ago. Unfortunately for his team, Guilherme, rejected by Gremio and Vasco earlier this year, failed to equal the record in the later ties.

Corinthians had home advantage for the remaining two games, a privilege they had earned by topping the first stage of the championship.

They won the second leg with two goals from Luizao, who finished with a tally of 21, but the match was marred by the deplorable refereeing of Marcio Resende de Freitas and by Luizao's late dismissal.

Freitas, it seems, would rather be burned at the stake than give a player a yellow card. Deliberate handball, blatant dives and hideous fouls all went unpunished, the perpetrators getting away with verbal warnings. Freitas even contrived to ignore an atrocious tackle by Joao Carlos of Corinthians, who threw his considerable weight at Robert's left leg. An obvious red card offence did not even get a yellow – which would have resulted in Joao Carlos missing the third game through suspension.

"What do you have to do to get sent off – break somebody's leg?" asked Atletico coach, Humberto Ramos.

Freitas has got so far in his career because of this approach, rather than despite it. Brazilian directors do not like having players suspended, feeling that it reduces the pulling power of matches. So referees who reach the top in Brazil are those who avoid giving cards, particularly to players on the brink of suspension.

Producing a red card early in a match goes down particularly badly. During the semi-final second leg, Sao Paulo full-back Anderson committed three 'red' offences in the first 20 minutes as he hacked his way through the Corinthians attack. He got nothing more than a talking-to by referee Oscar Roberto de Godoi – who was duly put in charge of the first leg of the Final. Freitas has done even better for himself. Last year, he took part in the World Cup.

Freitas made an exception in his treatment of Luizao, who was booked in the first half and sent off in injury time for elbowing an opponent. The twist came afterwards when Atletico coach Ramos accused Luizao of deliberately being dismissed.

"It was a premeditated action," said Ramos. "When he left the field, he told our goalkeeper, Veloso, that he had got sent off on purpose and would be playing on Wednesday."

Luizao's booking had taken him to five yellows and an automatic suspension from the final match. Under championship rules, however, his last-minute red nullified the fifth yellow, earning him the chance of a let-off. Reds do not carry automatic suspension in the championship.

Two years ago Edmundo used the same loophole to play for Vasco in the second leg of the Final against Palmeiras. He got a yellow card and an automatic ban early in the first leg, but then was sent off in the second half and later reprieved.

This time, however, the trick did not work, to the relief of critics. "If Luizao plays, I shall refuse to refer to Corinthians as 1999 Brazilian champions, just as I have always refused to call Vasco 1997 Brazilian champions," said TV's Milton Neves.

The Final victory was a remarkable triumph for Corinthians coach Oswaldo de Oliveira, who had been promoted from assistant at the start of the year, sacked three weeks later, then reinstated in May after Evaristo de Macedo, brought in to replace him, also got the boot.

Colombian Freddy Rincon became the second foreigner in succession to lift the trophy, Paraguay's Carlos Gamarra having done so last year.

Atletico surprised everyone by getting so far. They had seemed out of the running in the first stage when they lost their penultimate game 4-0 to Guarani, and coach Dario Pereyra was sacked. Ramos was brought in as a caretaker, but a favourable combination of results resulted in Atletico's jump to seventh, thus qualifying for the quarter-finals. They then eliminated arch-rivals Cruzeiro and Toninho Cerezo's refreshing young Vitoria.

In the other semi-final, Corinthians ended Paulo Cesar Carpegiani's reign at Sao Paulo by beating his side in both legs. Carpegiani already had agreed terms with Flamengo, who are looking forward to a prosperous 2000 after signing a partnership with ISL.

The deal had a sour side, though – Flamengo's current coach, Carlinhos, apparently was the last to know of it.

He bowed out in style, however, leading Flamengo to triumph in the Mercosur Cup, that awful 20-club event tailor-made for TV. Flamengo overcame Palmeiras in a thrilling Final, winning 4-3 at Maracana then drawing 3-3 in Sao Paulo.

Once again the deciding game was marred by inept refereeing, this time by Luciano Almeida, who did everything in his power, and more, to avoid sending off Palmeiras players. Flamengo's hero was 20-year-old substitute Le, who scored the equaliser six minutes from time.

Pro-file Ulises De La Cruz

Ecuador raider dreams of World Cup plunder

ONLY two of the 10 South American countries have never qualified for the final stages of a World Cup, and although it is hard to imagine Venezuela making it through, Ecuador have now earned the right to dream.

They were only four points short of qualifying last time, and there is optimism in the camp despite the disappointment of last year's Copa America, at which they lost all three games.

"The Copa was very bad for us," says Ulises De La Cruz, the raiding right-back and one of the team's outstanding players. "We're all aware that we'll have to play much better in the World Cup qualifiers."

De La Cruz lays much of the blame at the door of the then coach, Carlos Sevilla. "We had to play a very defensive 3-5-2. It didn't work. Now, in Hernan Dario Gomez, we have a coach who is a winner. He knows how to get the best out of his players. He favours 4-4-2, which I'm sure will give us a better balance, and will be better for me as well. We full-backs will have to take it in turns to go forward, but there'll be more space in front of me when I do."

The potency of the threat that De La Cruz poses is shown by his 22 goals in two seasons with LDU Quito, the club he joined from Barcelona of Guayaquil. His power and acceleration evoke comparisons with Brazil's Cafu, although the Ecuadorian is the more natural goalscorer.

Hitting the target in the Libertadores Cup and for the national team brought De La Cruz to wider attention, and he could have gone to Italy. "There was a proposal from Lecce, but I felt that with them the emphasis would be on defence," he says. "While that might be a good choice for a central defender, I felt I would not be able to show off my strengths. So I thought it would be best to go to Brazil, where a number of clubs were interested."

De La Cruz opted to join Cruzeiro, but has by no means ruled out a move to Europe, saying: "I would love to play in Italy or England."

He is convinced that the exodus of talent brings only benefits to Ecuadorian football, and recalls his early days with the national squad. "When we played Argentina we were in awe of them and had so much respect. But now we've got a lot of players abroad, which is a big help. Now we have to be respected."

Tim Vickery

Fact file

Club Cruzeiro (Bra)
Country Ecuador
Born August 8, 1974, in Quito
Previous clubs Barcelona, LDU Quito
International debut June 1994, v South Korea
International caps 36 (4 goals)
Honours Ecuadorian championship 1995 (Barcelona), 1998 (LDU)

River run out winners - just

ARGENTINA

RIVER PLATE won their 28th League title – the fourth under coach Ramon Diaz – but the outcome remained in doubt until the final whistle on the final day.

There were three candidates for the national opening championship as the last round of games began, but River Plate were the clear favourites having started the day three points ahead of Boca Juniors and Rosario Central.

All bets appeared to be off when River then cruised into a 2-0 lead against San Lorenzo, especially since defending champions Boca Juniors, playing their worst game of the season, were being held 0-0 at home by fifth-placed Talleres Cordoba.

However, Rosario Central were 1-0 up at home to Velez Sarsfield, even without leading scorer Juan Pizzi, who had been sent off just before half-time.

Then with less than half an hour to go, River Plate's match was suspended for 13 minutes when San Lorenzo fans threw smoke bombs on to the field.

On resumption, River seemed to lose control and Bernardo Romeo scored twice – the equaliser coming from a penalty in the final minute. San Lorenzo looked like they might just snatch the game, but the score stayed at 2-2, enabling River to pip Rosario for the title by one point.

Javier Saviola scored River's second goal to take his tally to 15 for the season, putting him above Boca Juniors' Martin Palermo at the top of the table.

Rosario's strong challenge was rewarded with a place in the Libertadores Cup. Boca and River qualified as closing and opening champions respectively, with San Lorenzo and Rosario joining them having obtained most points of all the other clubs during the last three tournaments.

Eric Weil

Golden boot...Javier Saviola's 15 goals took him to the top of the Argentina scoring charts

Talleres take trophy few people wanted

TALLERES CORDOBA won the eighth and last edition of the unpopular CONMEBOL Cup by overcoming Alagoano, now in Brazil's Third Division, in the Final. The Argentinians won 3-0 at home after a 4-2 defeat away.

This trophy, instituted for teams below the top rank – similar to the UEFA Cup in Europe – found favour only with minor clubs, who regarded it as the only way to enter international competition. Many of the bigger clubs who qualified to take part decided not to. Public interest was minimal and travelling expenses high.

Brazilian clubs won the trophy five times – Atletico Mineiro 1992 and 1997, Botafogo 1993, Sao Paulo 1994 and Santos 1998 – and Argentinian representatives the other three: Rosario Central 1995, Lanus 1996 and now Talleres.

Eric Weil

ROUND-UP

Hat-trick for Olimpia

OLIMPIA won the **PARAGUAYAN** title for the third year running, beating perennial rivals Cerro Porteno in the championship play-off.

International goalkeeper Ricardo Tavarelli shut out Cerro in the first leg as Olimpia squeezed in 1-0, but his side had to fight back from 2-0 down in the return to win 3-2. Both clubs qualify for the Libertadores Cup, together with Atletico Colegiales, who won a runners-up play-off.

COLOMBIA: Closing championship winners Atletico Nacional beat America, opening title holders, 4-2 on penalties to become overall champions after 1-1 and 0-0 draws. They will be joined in the Libertadores Cup by Atletico Junior, thanks to their high points total.

ECUADOR: Eduardo Hurtado returned from MLS to help LDU Quito retain the title with 1-0 and 3-1 wins over city rivals El Nacional. Hurtado scored the only goal of the first leg and bagged two more in the second.

The season ended in scandal. Alberto Cuero and Vladimir Montano played for the Under-17 national team having apparently used documents of deceased cousins as evidence of their age, while Delfin's Jose Gavica was banned for life after he admitted trying to bribe a Deportivo Quito player to let Delfin win and escape relegation.

BOLIVIA: The Strongest won the closing championship to give Argentinian 1978 World Cup hero Mario Kempes his first coaching success. However, they lost 6-4 on aggregate to opening title winners Blooming in the overall championship play-off.

CHILE: Universidad de Chile clinched the title with two games to go, but deposed champions Colo Colo spoilt their celebrations on the final day by beating them 3-0. This led to crowd trouble and police detained around 100 fans.

URUGUAY: Nacional and Bella Vista were first and second in the pre-Libertadores Cup Liguilla and will join champions Penarol in the Libertadores Cup.

Eric Weil

Champion...Ricardo Tavarelli

Surprise, surprise it's Pachuca's title

MEXICO

THE PLAY-OFF system produced unexpected winter season champions – Pachuca, a modest team who six months previously had been fighting against relegation.

This time they made it to the Final, where they beat Cruz Azul to earn their first silverware under coach Javier Aguirre, a former international who had been in charge for less than a year.

Pachuca squeezed into the last eight from the group stages after a play-off against Atletico Morelia. They then eliminated Toluca in the quarter-finals and hot favourites Atlas in the semis.

The Final's first leg ended in a 2-2 draw, with the return, played in the Azul stadium in Mexico City, finishing goalless after 90 minutes. Two minutes into extra-time, Marco Garces, a former Cruz Azul player, sent in a cross that the defence could not control, and Alejandro Glaria scored the decisive goal.

Pachuca are the oldest active club in the League, having been founded in 1900 by British miners, who went to the area to work in the silver mines. After winning three League titles, they dropped out of the First Division in 1921, returning to professional soccer via the Second Division in 1950.

The current team has a strong midfield, including veterans Benjamin Galindo (39) and Marcelino Bernal (37), who played alongside Aguirre in the 1986 World Cup, as well as some excellent young players. Their success was due to stamina and team spirit, plus the motivational powers of Aguirre.

Carlos Ramirez

Golden oldie...Pachuca's Marcelino Bernal

Consortium International University
AT THE FILIPPIN INSTITUTE

THE CAMPUS CLUB
INTERNATIONAL SUMMER CAMPS 2000
Veneto, Northern Italy

'INTENSIVE' SOCCER
FOR THE 'SERIOUS' SOCCER PLAYER

THE CAMPUS CLUB is the sports division of the *Consortium International University*, a joint cultural/educational initiative of the Christian Brothers, who manage private schools and institutes for higher education all over the world and a consortium of 30 American state owned universities. THE CAMPUS CLUB offers the finest summer camps available anywhere, focused on two sports in which Italy truly shines: *SOCCER* and *VOLLEYBALL!*

In a marvellously well equipped campus of the Veneto region of northern Italy, at the foot of the Italian Alps, participants from all over the world will enjoy the finest in certified specialist training/coaching, food, lodging and a wide array of recreational activities in a multilingual environment, while Mom and Dad tour Italy at their leisure.

If you are 6-19 years of age and want to participate in a 'SERIOUS' SOCCER SUMMER CLINIC
(in a beautiful international environment please visit our website, write or call:
fax. +39 0423 932 029 / e-mail thecampus@ciu.it / website www.ciu.it/thecampus club)

THE CAMPUS CLUB C.I.U. at the Filippin Institute, Via S. Giacomo, 4, 31010 Paderno del Grappa TV, tel. + 39 0423 932 174/5

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE FINAL

Raja spot on - again

Mark Gleeson on yet another shoot-out victory for the Casablancans

FOR the second time in three years, Morocco's Raja Casablanca were crowned as African champions, beating the favourites Esperance of Tunisia at the end of a tension-filled Final that produced no goals and was settled by a penalty shoot-out.

All three of Raja's triumphs in Africa's leading club competition have now come courtesy of shoot-outs, against Algeria's Mouloudia Oran in 1989, Goldfields of Ghana in 1997 and then this year's 4-3 triumph against the Tunisians at the end of the second leg at the El Menzah stadium in Tunis.

This win was arguably the sweetest for the 'Green Devils', who took a depleted squad to the second leg after being held to a 0-0 draw at home in the first tie. They then had to play most of the return with 10 men after captain Abdellatif Jrindou was sent off in the 13th minute when he conceded a penalty and received his second yellow card.

The dismissal caused a storm of protest from the Raja players, some of whom had to be restrained by police from attacking the referee, Duarte Monteiro of the Cape Verde Islands, who turned in a disastrous performance. The Moroccans rode their luck, though, as Walid Azaiez missed from the penalty spot.

Goalkeeper Mustapha Chadli was the mainstay of a defensive performance that ensured Raja held out for another goalless draw after 90 minutes and forced the game to penalties, the rules of the competition not allowing for extra-time in the second leg.

In the shoot-out, each side had missed one penalty when Chadli saved Esperance's fifth kick, taken by veteran keeper and captain Chokri El Ouaer. This left Mohamed Armoumen to secure the title for the Casablanca club.

Esperance's defeat meant they missed out on a unique treble after taking the CAF Cup in 1997 and the Cup-winners Cup the year after. More importantly, they blew the chance to play in the World Club Championship in Brazil, where each club were guaranteed a minimum payment of £1.5million by FIFA, an enormous sum by African standards.

"The players thought the match had been won in advance," said Esperance coach Youssef Zouaoui in reference to the goalless draw the Tunisians had forced in Casablanca in the first leg. "When the Moroccan player was sent off and we had the numerical superiority this unfortunately reinforced that attitude. The players did not have the mental strength to impose themselves on the game."

Smiles all round...Raja celebrate th

ROUND-UP

Bids in place for 2004

A JOINT bid from **BENIN** and **TOGO** will go up against Egypt for the right to host the 2004 African Nations Cup finals after the two candidatures were approved at CAF's committee meeting in Tunis. It is the first bid by both Benin and Togo.

Elsewhere in **WEST AFRICA**, Africa Sports took the **IVORIAN** title from ASEC Abidjan at the end of the six-team super league. ASEC's Aruna Dindane finished top scorer with 10 goals, one more than Fadel Keita of Africa Sports. Meanwhile, Keita's brother and team-mate Abdulkader is moving to Lens. In the domestic Cup Final, ASEC thumped Sewe San Pedro 5-0.

SIERRA LEONE and **GAMBIA** drew 0-0 in the first international for the Leone Stars in 14 months, following the end of the civil war.

An £18,000 windfall has gone to small **GHANAIAN** club Mighty Victory, a junior side who have been given a cut of the fee paid to Hearts of Oak for Stephen Appiah by Udinese. An investigation into irregularities in the transfer of Ghanaians to Europe found that Mighty Victory were due the money because they had a 30 per cent sell-on share in Appiah.

Big gain...a move to Italy for Appiah (right) benefited Mighty Victory

CENTRAL AFRICA

GABON's champions Petrosport have folded after the oil firm Elf, the club's owners, said it would no longer be sponsoring soccer. Petrosport were champions in 1998 and were leading the League in 1999 when it was suspended due to a lack of cash. FC105 Libreville will now represent Gabon in the Champions League.

Canon Yaounde won the **CAMEROONIAN** Cup Final, beating Cotonsport 2-1.

EAST AFRICA

KENYAN champions Mumias Sugar have been stripped of the title and suspended for a year after fixing their final League game of the season. Mumias needed a seven-goal margin of victory against Kisumu All Stars to take the championship and ran out 10-0 winners. However, they were found to have paid a bribe of £325 to their opponents, who have also been suspended for one year. The new champions are Tusker FC.

In **REUNION**, Stade Tamponnaise were two points ahead of St Pierroise as the season drew to a close.

The ban on football in **MAURITIUS** has been lifted after seven months. New rules on player and fan behaviour have been instituted following the death of seven spectators at a stadium as a result of a fire started on the terraces. In addition, no club will be allowed to use ethnic names, nor will clubs be allowed to recruit players solely from one religious group.

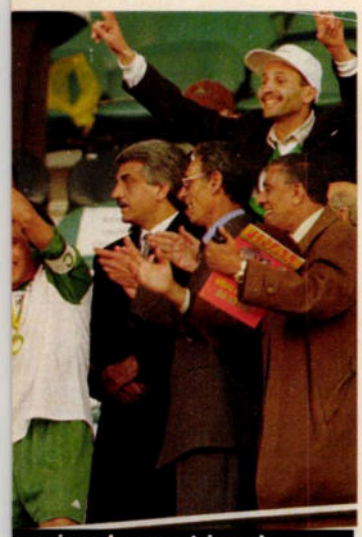
German Burkhardt Pape is the new national coach in **TANZANIA**.

St George maintained their unbeaten run in the **ETHIOPIAN** League and still led the standings.

NORTH AFRICA

MOULOUDIA CONSTANTINE and CR Belouzidad saw their five-point gap reduced to just one in the **ALGERIAN** League.

TUNISIA's CS Sfaxien bought Brazilian Da Silva Delson Pereira in time for the new season, while Marsois Lopez joined AS Marsa. After nine games, Esperance still had a 100 per cent record. They shared the lead on 27 points with Etoile Sahel, who had played two games more.



ampions League triumph

For Raja's Argentinian coach Oscar-Luis Fullone, the win meant a unique second successive triumph in the tournament, after leading ASEC Abidjan to the 1998 crown. "This victory was the fruit of determination and a team who took their chances and gave none away," he declared after the game.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

BRAZILIAN coach Djalma Cavalcante, who took **ANGOLA** to the Cosafa Castle Cup title last year, has come to the end of his contract with the national team but is staying in Luanda to take over Petro Atletico. However, he lost his first game in charge, Petro going down 4-0 to Primeiro Agosto in the second leg of the Angolan Super Cup. The first leg was a 2-2 draw.

Primeiro's teenage international striker Mendonca has left for Varzim of Portugal.

Costa do Sol led the **MOZAMBICAN** League after beating Matchedje 3-0 in the local derby in Maputo.

In **SOUTH AFRICA**, Mamelodi Sundowns had their 16-match unbeaten record ended by Umtata Bucks but still led by three points from Orlando Pirates. Sundowns also won the Rothmans Cup Final with a 2-0 triumph over Free State Stars.

Highlanders were the last unbeaten side in the **SWAZILAND** League and had established a six-point lead over Manzini Wanderers.

After nine matches, Notwane were one point ahead of Mochudi Centre Chiefs in **BOTSWANA**. Cash problems led Defence Force XI to withdraw from the Champions League.

AFRICAN FOOTBALLER OF THE YEAR

Jury guilty of ignorance and bias

THE CHOICE of some of the candidates for Africa's Footballer of the Year continues to cast doubt on whether the jury who decide the award are competent enough to do the job. Its 23 members are drawn from the Confederation of African Football's technical and press committees, but year after year their decisions demonstrate little or no knowledge of the real achievements of African players worldwide.

While there can be no argument with the choice of winner Nwankwo Kanu and the runner-up Samuel Osei Kuffour, the fact that Ibrahima Bakayoko finished third is shocking. During 1999 he was a flop with Everton and then got shipped out to Marseille, who have hardly covered themselves in glory so far this season.

Flop...Ibrahima Bakayoko

Austin Okocha's horribly mediocre season at Paris Saint-Germain was rewarded with fifth place, while his team-mate Ali Benarbia came in joint eighth. This is despite his club's struggles and the fact that, though born in Algeria, he long ago refused to entertain any call-ups from his native country.

In terms of success in 1999, these are the kind of performances that should have been considered:

- Abedi Pele (Ghana) – semi-finalist in the Asian club championship with Al Ain of the United Arab Emirates.
- Chokri El Ouaer (Tunisia) – led Tunisia to five straight wins in the Nations Cup qualifiers and Esperance to the African Champions League Final.
- Pierre Issa (South Africa) – UEFA Cup runner-up with Marseille.
- Bonaventure Kalou (Ivory Coast) – Dutch League winner with Feyenoord.
- Laurent Mayer (Cameroon) – European Cup-winners Cup runner-up with Mallorca.
- Peter Ofori-Quaye (Ghana) – Greek League title winner with Olympiakos.
- Souleymane Oulare (Senegal) – Belgian League title winner with Genk.

It has also been obvious through the years that the selections have shown a Francophone bias. How could you otherwise explain the fact that Japhet N'Doram was consistently in the top three when he played at Nantes and Monaco, when his national team, Chad, never played any matches and he did not achieve anything at club level.

It is an award devalued by people who should know better.

Mark Gleeson

THE 1999 VOTING

1	Nwankwo Kanu (Arsenal & Nigeria)	46 pts
2	Samuel Osei Kuffour (Bayern Munich & Ghana)	44
3	Ibrahima Bakayoko (Marseille & Ivory Coast)	42
4	George Weah (Milan & Liberia)	40
5	Austin Okocha (PSG & Nigeria)	30
6	Aruna Dindane (ASEC Abidjan, Ivory Coast)	28
7	Victor Ikpeba (Borussia Dortmund & Nigeria)	26
8	Ali Benarbia (PSG, Algeria)	24
	Mustapha Hadji (Coventry City & Morocco)	24
10	Khaled Badra (Esperance & Tunisia)	22

PAST WINNERS

France Football award

1970	Salif Keita (Saint-Etienne & Mali)
1971	Ibrahim Sunday (Asante Kotoko & Ghana)
1972	Cherif Souleymane (Hafia & Guinea)
1973	Tshimen Bwanga (TP Mazembe & Zaire)
1974	Paul Moukila (CARA Brazzaville & Congo)
1975	Ahmed Faras (Mohammedia & Morocco)
1976	Roger Milla (Canon Yaounde & Cameroon)
1977	Tarak Dhiab (Esperance & Tunisia)
1978	Karim Abdoul Razak (Asante Kotoko & Ghana)
1979	Thomas N'Kono (Canon Yaounde & Cameroon)
1980	Jean Manga Onguene (Canon Yaounde & Cameroon)
1981	Lakhdar Belloumi (GCR Mascara & Algeria)
1982	Thomas N'Kono (Espanyol & Cameroon)
1983	Mahmoud Al Khatib (Al Ahly & Egypt)
1984	Theophile Abega (Toulouse & Cameroon)
1985	Mohamed Timoumi (Royal Armed Forces & Morocco)
1986	Badou Zaki (Real Mallorca & Morocco)
1987	Rabah Madjer (FC Porto & Algeria)
1988	Kalusha Bwalya (Cercle Brugge & Zambia)
1989	George Weah (Monaco & Liberia)
1990	Roger Milla (St Denis & Cameroon)
1991	Abedi Pele Ayew (Marseille & Ghana)
1992	Abedi Pele Ayew (Marseille & Ghana)
1993	Abedi Pele Ayew (Lyon & Ghana)
1994	George Weah (PSG & Liberia)

Confederation of African Football award

1994	Emmanuel Amunike (Sporting Lisbon & Nigeria)
1995	George Weah (Milan & Liberia)
1996	Nwankwo Kanu (Internazionale & Nigeria)
1997	Victor Ikpeba (Monaco & Nigeria)
1998	Mustapha Hadji (Deportivo La Coruna & Morocco)

The France Football *award was discontinued after 1994, when CAF instituted a new award.*

JAPAN

Treble for Jubilo

Coach Kuwahara stands down after title success

FIRST-STAGE winners Jubilo Iwata rounded off a historic season by clinching the 1999 J.League championship against second-stage winners Shimizu S-Pulse.

Jubilo, who also won the Asian Club Championship and the Asian Super Cup in 1999, again showed their professionalism in edging their way to a title that few thought they deserved. They had a dreadful second stage, dropping to 12th, and took only 49 points over the whole season, against 65 for S-Pulse.

In the end, however, it was all down to the play-offs and, as so often in the past, S-Pulse had to settle for second place. "They were better than us today," admitted Jubilo manager Takashi Kuwahara after the second leg, "but I never felt we'd lose."

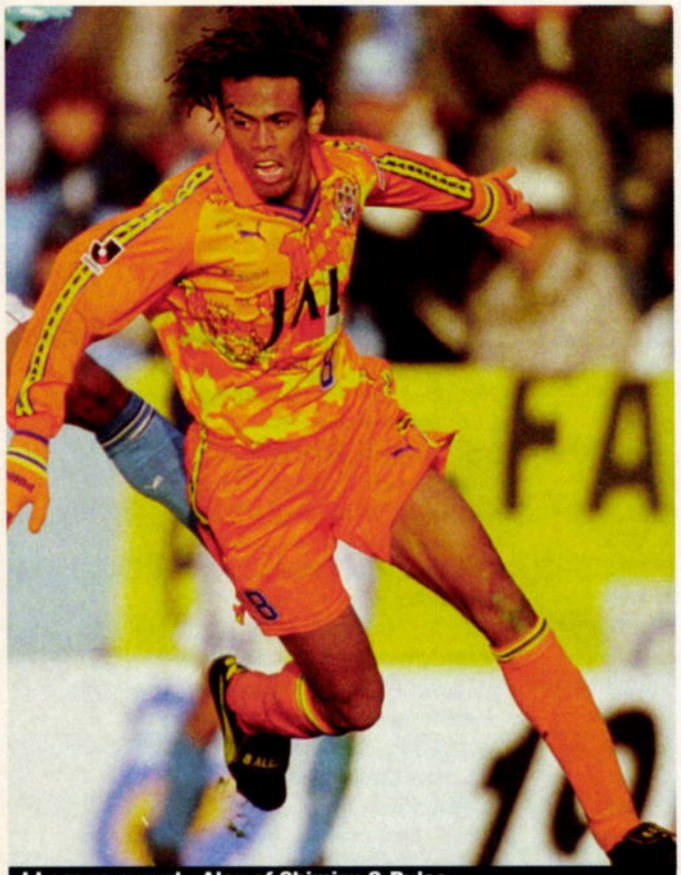
Both legs were won 2-1 in extra time by the home team. The first was a day for the veterans as both captains scored, Masashi Nakayama for Jubilo (a first-half header and an extra-time penalty), and Masaaki Sawanobori with a thunderous left-foot drive.

In the return, Jubilo took the lead through Toshihiro Hattori, before S-Pulse's Alex was sent off for a retaliatory kick. Sawanobori equalised with a looping free-kick, but S-Pulse had to wait until extra-time for a second goal, by Fabinho. In general it was a bad day for the Brazilians, with both Fabinho and Santos missing in the penalty shoot-out, which Jubilo won 4-2.

Jubilo had struggled after Hiroshi Nanami's departure for Venezia in the summer. Kuwahara, however, can look back on a highly satisfying season. He stood down after leading Jubilo Iwata to the 1997 J.League title, and has done so again now. Former Macedonia coach Djoko Hadzievski takes over.

Pulse manager Steve Perryman said: "Overall, I thought we were better, with more heart, more spirit, more fight, more organisation, more goals. Less penalties. And probably more stupid. I'm absolutely convinced we'd have won with 11 men.

"It's a shame that after nine months of solid results and performances, and the best discipline in the J.League, we end up losing by a penalty shoot-out."



J.League award...Alex of Shimizu S-Pulse

Alex takes top spot

RUNNERS-UP Shimizu S-Pulse dominated the end-of-season awards. Six of their players were named in the League's Best Eleven, with midfielder Alex the Player of the Year, and Steve Perryman Manager of the Year. Alex was brought to Japan from Brazil as a high-school student, and was picked up by S-Pulse on the cheap. Top scorer was Hwang Sun-hong of Cerezo Osaka (*see profile, right*). Yuji Nakazawa of Verdy Kawasaki was named best new player.

Mike Plastow & Michi Ishijima

ASIAN CLUB COMPETITIONS

Pirouzi's progress

Michael Church on the latest stages of the continental cups

PIROUZI of Iran reached the quarter-finals of the Asian Club Championship for the third time in four years with a comfortable win over Al Ansar of Lebanon.

The Tehran-based club, formerly home to players such as Ali Daei, Khodadad Azizi and Mehdi Mahdavikia, join Saudi Arabians Al Hilal, Irtysh Pavlodar of Kazakhstan and Iraq's Police Club in the West Asian quarter-finals.

Due to the size of the

ROUND-UP

Coach killed in road crash

UZBEKISTAN's celebrations at reaching their second straight Asian Cup finals were curtailed by the death of national coach, Makhmud Rakhimov, at the age of 46.

Rakhimov, who guided his side through to the finals in Lebanon with a 100 per cent record, died when his Jeep collided head-on with a truck near Tashkent.

Chonan Ilhwa, who won the Asian Club Championship in 1995 under the name Ilhwa Chunma but have struggled ever since, won the FA Cup in **SOUTH KOREA** by beating Chunbuk Dinos 3-0.

Irtysh Pavlodar retained the title in **KAZAKHSTAN**, finishing four points clear of Access-Esil.

Brazilian coach Lori Sandri resigned from **SAUDI ARABIA**'s Al Hilal in protest over management interference in his team selections. The clash arose over Sandri's plan to axe some of the club's star players, including Youssef Thunayen and Sami Al-Jaber, and bring in young blood.

Months of talks between **OMAN**'s football federation and Dutch coach Ruud Krol, who they wanted to lead their national team, ended in failure after Krol asked for better terms.

Former Brazil coach Carlos Alberto Parreira may well be on his way back to the **UNITED ARAB EMIRATES** after the federation announced that they were in negotiations with him.

Parreira worked with the Emirates from 1984 to 1987 and was at the helm for their World Cup debut at Italia 90. The UAE, who reached the Asian Cup finals in 1996 on home soil, failed to qualify for the 2000 edition.

The **BANGLADESH** FA has signed a landmark National Football League deal for one year with Leisure Sports Management (LSM) of India.

Eight teams, in two groups, will play in the inaugural league. After the first round, the top two teams

continent, the region is divided in half and the strongest contenders in recent years of the competition, Asia's premier club tournament, have come from the east.

Al Hilal qualified thanks to three goals from new Kuwaiti signing Jassim Al-Howaidi. He got the only goal of the opening leg against Al Saad of Qatar, before claiming two in the return, which was won 2-1.

Another Kuwaiti, Bashar Abdullah, 22-year-old captain of the Olympic team, will join Al Hilal when he finishes his university studies. He and Al-Howaidi have gained a reputation as the most potent striking force in the Gulf.

The East Asia clubs in the draw are champions Jubilo Iwata and Kashima Antlers from Japan, Suwon Bluewings of South Korea and Sinthana from Thailand.

In the Cup-winners Cup, defending champions Al Ittihad overcame a tough test to reach the last eight. They knocked out last year's Asian Club Championship finalists, Esteghlal of Iran, 2-1 on aggregate, with a last-minute winner from Mohammad Al-Hawsawi.

Al Ittihad now face Al Zawra of Iraq, while cross-Jeddah rivals Al Ahly play Navbakhor of Uzbekistan, setting up a possible all-Saudi Arabian semi-final clash. In the east, Japan's Shimizu S-Pulse play Anyang Cheetahs of South Korea, and Bangkok Bank of Thailand meet South China of Hong Kong.

CHINA

Santrac's double

SHANDONG won their first Chinese Professional League title when they slipped past Liaoning on the last day. A week later they beat Dalian 3-2 in the Cup Final to give Yugoslav coach Slobodan Santrac a double.

After leading for most of the season, Liaoning did not win any of their last five matches, allowing Shandong to finish a point ahead.

Santrac was a candidate to take over as China's national coach after Englishman Bob Houghton was sacked, but he has re-signed with Shandong, leaving another Yugoslav, Bora Milutinovic, as favourite to succeed Houghton. Meanwhile, three local coaches will be in charge for the preliminary matches in the Asian Cup.

Success...Slobodan Santrac

Another Yugoslav coach, Milan Kosanovic, has joined Dalian, last season's champions, who avoided relegation by winning their final match.

Michael Church & Zheng Ming

from both groups will move into the final phase.

The teams are Premier League champions Mohammedan SC, runners-up Abahani KC, Federation Cup finalists Muktijoddah KC, and divisional teams from Chittagong, Rajshahi, Dhaka and Khulna.

Rosli Hj Liman scored twice as **BRUNEI** lifted the Malaysia Cup for the first time. They beat Sarawak 2-1 in the Final.

In two-leg semi-finals Brunei beat Negri Sembilan 4-3 and Sarawak defeated Trengganu 3-1. As part of FIFA's experiment, two referees were used at all matches.

Home United won the S-League title in **SINGAPORE** for the first time, by two points over defending champions Armed Forces Club.

In **INDIA**, Mohun Bagan retained the IFA Shield, with substitute striker Abdul Khaleque scoring the winner six minutes from time. They overcame gallant resistance from giant-killers Tollygunge Aggragami.

Michael Church & Azam Mahmood

Pro-file Hwang Sun-hong

Korean winding down to a grand finale

"THIS is now my best period," says Hwang Sun-hong of Cerezo Osaka, veteran of three World Cups and top scorer in the 1999 J.League. "I want to retire at the top and probably don't have long left, but I want to hit my peak until then."

Hwang was one of South Korea's most feared strikers of the 1990s. He was top scorer in the Asian qualifying tournament for the 1990 World Cup while still at university, and played against Belgium and Uruguay in the finals in Italy.

The world will remember him best, though, for the fabulous goal he scored against Germany at USA 94. That was a special moment for a man just back from spells with Bayer Leverkusen and MSV Wuppertal.

"I'd been in Germany, so I knew a bit about German football and what to do," says Hwang. "And it's a great thing for a striker to score at the World Cup, a great honour."

Hwang had been sent to Germany by his club Pohang Steelers four months after graduating from Kunkook University. This was a period when it was still very hard for Korean footballers to get permission to play abroad, and he was very much on his own.

"At the beginning, there were so many things that were hard to express in words, but I learned a lot from the Germans," he says.

He was top scorer at the 1994 Asian Games in Hiroshima, thanks largely to eight goals against Nepal. He also scored twice in a 3-2 quarter-final win against Japan. But at that time, he had no thought of ever playing for a Japanese club. "I wanted to go back to Europe, but that still wasn't possible," he says.

Then came the decision that South Korea and Japan would co-host the 2002 World Cup. Suddenly, it was all right for South Koreans to cross the water. So Hwang joined Cerezo Osaka in August 1998 and scored six times in 11 League appearances that season. In 1999 he started slowly, but an explosive second stage took him to the top of the scoring chart with 24 goals in 25 matches.

Curiously, Hwang won few honours in his own country. "I was always with the national team," he explains. "In six years in the K.League I played only 60 games!"

And what about retirement? "I still don't know, but probably two or three years at the most." Meaning you'll be around for 2002? "Yes, that's my aim."

Mike Plastow & Michi Ishijima

Fact file

Club Cerezo Osaka (Jap)
Country South Korea
Born July 14, 1968
Previous clubs Pohang Steelers, Bayer Leverkusen (Ger), MSV Wuppertal (Ger), Pohang Steelers
International debut December 1988, v Japan
International caps 89 (45 goals)

Kingz ain't what they used to be

New lease of life...Kingz's veteran player-coach Wynton Rufer

WHEN executives of New Zealand's first professional club launched the Auckland Kings a few months ago, they had little idea of the number of teething problems that lay ahead.

The first was provided by the Sydney Kings basketball club, who claimed they had sole rights to the nickname in the Australian professional sports market. So, rather than be subjected to an expensive legal confrontation, the club renamed themselves The Football Kingz.

Then, FIFA revealed itself to be unenthusiastic about the Kingz entering Australia's National Soccer League. The world body is reluctant to allow clubs to participate in competitions under the jurisdiction of a national association other than the one to which they are affiliated. And though FIFA did eventually give its consent to the proposal, it was for only a three-year period.

Difficulties did not disappear once the Kingz got on to the pitch. Inconsistent performances left them in mid-table, but the most serious predicament is the lack of supporters.

The average attendance to date is approximately half the figure projected and the resulting liquidity problem meant players went unpaid for a large part of December.

When in top form, the Kingz have proved to be a match for Australia's best (they have beaten League leaders Sydney Olympic and champions South Melbourne) and veteran player-coach Wynton Rufer is proving a revelation in midfield.

However, the key to the Kingz's survival is their ability to capture the imagination of a fickle Auckland sporting public – and it will be far from easy.

Paul Moon

AUSTRALIA

SYDNEY OLYMPIC, backed by a syndicate of Greco-Australian businessmen whose combined wealth is some £112million, have swept to the head of the National Soccer League. The club's recent good run included two wins achieved with Ian Rush in their line-up.

There is strong interest in the situation at the bottom where Adelaide Force, three times champions as Adelaide City, are propping up the table. Their problems have been compounded by the return to Scotland, after just two games, of former Rangers midfielder Derek Ferguson following a dispute with coach Zoran Matic.

Canberra Cosmos are having more luck with their Scottish recruits. Brian Hamilton and David Winnie, who were both in St Mirren's 1987 Cup-winning side, have played major parts in a mini-revival. Cosmos are four points clear of Force and hope to pass on the wooden spoon, which has been in their possession since 1997.

Paul Moon

Win a pair of top-quality Mitre football boots

Mitre The authority..

Mitre has kindly donated a pair of top-quality football boots as first prize for this month's crossword. The first correct entry selected at random after January 28 will win the boots. Five runners-up will win a *World Soccer* polo shirt.

SEND YOUR ENTRY TO: FEBRUARY CROSSWORD, *World Soccer*, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LS. Please remember to include your shoe size.

CLUES ACROSS

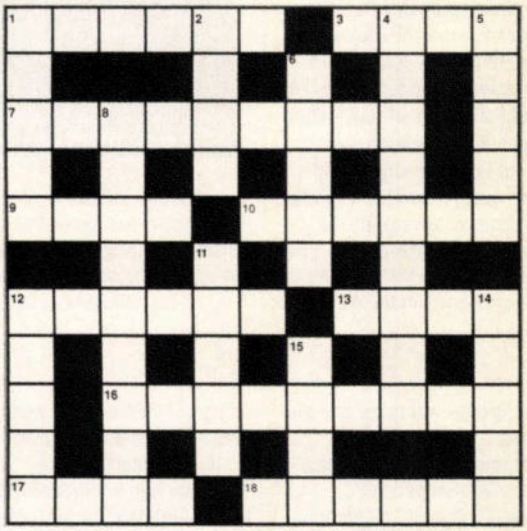
1 Bayern midfield substitute in the 1999 Champions League Final (6)
3 Belfast stadium – home of champions Glentoran (4)
7 Whistle-blower who exposed the 1993 Marseille corruption scandal (9)
9 Middlesbrough's former Inter and Liverpool midfielder (4)
10 Piacenza coach in charge at Inter last year (6)
12 Guinea's ex-Waregem and Genk forward now at Metz (6)
13 Fiorentina midfielder formerly with Barcelona (4)
16 Olimpia goalkeeper, currently first choice for Paraguay (9)
17 One-time Vojvodina forward in Belgium with Club Brugge (4)
18 Ex-Willem II Finn now a part of Houllier's Anfield revolution (6)

CLUES DOWN

1 Italian appointed as Tunisia's national coach in 1998 (5)
2 Long-time understudy who followed Ravelli as Gothenburg's No 1 (4)
4 Young PSV libero snapped up from Fortuna Sittard (3, 6)
5 Inter coach once in charge of Juve (5)
6 Israel's captain currently contracted to Brescia in Italy (5)
8 Milan midfielder who helped the hosts to third place at Italia 90 (9)
11 Veteran France star who once played for Parma; now at Nice (5)
12 Nigerian Olympic gold medallist who joined Lens in France (5)
14 Borussia Dortmund's summer midfield capture from Arminia Bielefeld (5)
15 Teenage French keeper who won a place in the Inter squad (4)

JANUARY SOLUTION

ACROSS: 2 Milinovic, 6 Veron, 7 Kreek, 9 Cochin, 10 Fish, 12 Vonk, 14 Gerets, 17 Congo, 18 Pecze, 19 Evanilson.
DOWN: 1 Savicevic, 2 Maric, 3 Lundin, 4 Nikl, 5 Vieri, 8 Kihlstedt, 11 Kempes, 13 Nonda, 15 Ercan, 16 Toni.



NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

_____

_____

POSTCODE _____

FEB

Please indicate your shoe size: ☐ UK ☐ Continental ☐ American

SUBSCRIPTION OFFER

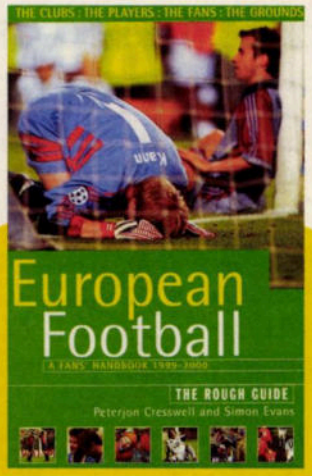
A perfect delivery every time

Subscribe now and get every issue of World Soccer delivered to your door plus:

- Save up to 15% on the standard subscription price
- Get a FREE copy of the Rough Guide to European Football – a fans' handbook 1999-2000
- Convenience of delivery direct to your door
- Price protection – no price increase during your initial subscription period

WORLD SOCCER SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Postal Region	Full 1 year price	You pay Save 10%	Full 2 year price	You pay Save 15%
UK	£32.50	£29.25	£65.00	£55.25
Europe	£33.00 €52.14	£29.70 €46.92	£66.00 €104.28	£56.10 €88.63
USA ($)	$66.39	$59.75	$132.78	$112.86
Canada, Central & South America	£40.00	£36.00	£80.00	£68.00
Middle East, Africa, Asia	£35.00	£31.50	£70.00	£59.50
Far East, Australasia	£45.00	£40.50	£90.00	£76.50



FREE

Rough Guide to European Football

worth £12.99 RRP

Whether you are an armchair fan or a roving footie supporter, this new edition – covering 29 countries – is an essential guide. It details everything from club histories to match day practicalities.

For a faster response call our credit card hotline on +44 (0) 1622 778778
Please quote code 28M when ordering (lines open 7 days a week, 9am – 9pm, UK time)
If ordering from the US, you can call toll-free on 888-313-5528
Please quote code 28M when ordering (lines open Mon-Fri 9am – 8pm, Sat 9am – 4pm, EST)

YES! I would like to subscribe to World Soccer and receive a FREE copy of The Rough Guide to European Football:

◯ 2 year subscription (26 issues) ◯ 1 year subscription (13 issues)

YOUR DETAILS:

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms: Forename:

Surname:

Address:

Postcode: Country:

Daytime Tel No. (inc STD code):
(In case we have a query with your order)

E-mail address:

Choose one of two **easy** ways to pay: CODE: 28M

1 I enclose a cheque/international money order for £/$/€ _____ made payable to IPC Magazines Ltd. (See above table for subscription rates)

2 Please debit my: ◯ Amex ◯ Visa ◯ Mastercard ◯ Switch (UK only)

☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐ Switch only

Switch Card Issue No. ☐☐

Expiry date: Signature:

(I am over 18)

Please send this coupon with your payment to: (UK only) World Soccer Subscriptions, FREEPOST CY1061, Haywards Heath, West Sussex RH16 3ZA (No stamp required) or (other countries) World Soccer Subscriptions, PO Box 272, Haywards Heath, West Sussex RH16 3FS, England (please attach correct postage)

Please note that this is open to new subscribers only and closes 31st March 2000. Please allow up to six weeks for delivery of your first subscription issue. Gifts are subject to availability and will be delivered separately within 28 days. For enquiries, please call +44 (0) 1444 445555.

IPC Magazines Ltd., the publisher of World Soccer, may pass your name and address to other reputable companies whose products and services may be of interest to you. Please tick this box if you prefer not to receive such offers. ☐

WORLD SOCCER

FOR SALE

MASTERSOUND P.O. BOX 183, SOUTHPORT PR8 4GE, U.K.

VINTAGE B&W Videos (VHS on European PAL *System*)

£9
1) HOME INTERNATIONAL 1967 (48 mins) ENGLAND 2 v SCOTLAND 3

£12
2) WORLD CUP 1954 NEW EDITION (102 mins) Last 16 inc HUNGARY
3) WORLD INTERN'L 1963 (92 mins) ENGLAND 2 v REST OF WORLD 1
4) WORLD CUP FINAL 1966 (104 mins) ENGLAND 4 v W GERMANY 2
5) EUROPEAN CUP FINAL 1968 (118 mins) MAN UTD 4 v BENFICA 1

£15
6) EUROPEAN CUP FINAL 1960 (100 mins) REAL MADRID 7 v EINTRACHT 3
7) F.A. CUP FINAL 1963 (107 mins) MAN UTD 3 v LEICESTER 1
8) WORLD CUP QTRS 1966 (100 mins) N KOREA 3 v PORTUGAL 5
9) EUROPEAN CUP FINAL 1967 (98 mins) CELTIC 2 v INTER MILAN 1
10) HOME INTERNATIONAL 1969 (106 mins) ENGLAND 4 v SCOTLAND 1
11) WEMBLEY INTERNATIONAL 1953 (88 mins) ENGLAND 3 v HUNGARY 6

COLOUR Videos (VHS on European PAL *System*)

£9
12) SHANKS FOR THE MEMORY - John Keith's comic Anfield tales
13) VERY BEST OF LIVERPOOL 1965-1992
14) VERY BEST OF EVERTON 1966-1989
15) LAST NIGHT OF THE KOP
16) MICHAEL OWEN

PRICES include U.K. Postage – Add £1:50 Each For Postage ABROAD
Telephone : 01704-567077 (No V.A.T.)
Cheques/P.O.s to MASTERSOUND *Visa/Mastercard/Eurocard*

REPLICA JERSEYS FROM SOCCERSTORE.COM

The largest selection in the United States. Premier League, Serie A, Bundesliga and more! 100's of styles in stock. Shop and order on-line at www.soccerstore.com or call 1-800-566-5536 (908-647-2877 internationally)

The Soccer Store

Most people never get the chance to be reunited with the love(s) that they lost in the past. Now you could get to feel those fibres once again.
For your free list of over 2000 original replica football shirts of teams from planet Earth from the 1970's to 90's, contact:
FOOTBALL – NOT MUGGYBONEHEAD
41 Shaftesbury Road, Carshalton, Surrey SM5 1HH, England. Tel/Fax: 44-(0)181-241-3128
www.croydon.gov.uk/muggybonehead
email: pxh2u@aol.com
You can now send in a 3.5" disk for an up to the minute list

PLEASE MENTION WORLD SOCCER WHEN REPLYING TO OUR ADS

SHOP IN MILAN Sales of shirts: Milan AC 7 Schevchenko, Lazio 9 Salas, Juventus 10 Del Piero, Roma 10 Totti, Inter 9 Ronaldo, Perugia 7 Nakata, Venezia 7 Nanami and 100 other teams. Also rarities and shorts, scarves, socks, tracksuits and metal badges. Write for free list. Walkon di Iacazzi Andrea, Pizza G.A. Bazzi 2, 20144 Milano, Italy.

LA-VANITA SINGAPORE
3 Coleman St 02/36m Peninsula Shopping Centre, Singapore 179804
Tel: 065 3340639 Fax: 065 3380331
E-Mail: lavanita@pacific.net.sg
Stockists of replica jerseys, souvenirs and figurines of Premier league and Euro top clubs and teams 99/2000.
Retail/wholesale/export enquiries welcome

WANTED

I WANT ORIGINAL WORLD CUP POSTERS from 1930-2002. Please contact Jim Halle, P.O.Box 167, Stevenson, Maryland 21153 USA. Tel. 0101 410 486 3090.

MISCELLANEOUS

SOCCER COACH
★ *USA* ★
This book explains how to get a lucrative, expenses paid trip to the States (and the Caribbean & Australia) to coach children's soccer. There are hundreds of jobs available to people of all ages and abilities and most jobs involve only 3 hours work a day! *'Soccer Coach USA'* includes chapters on soccer coaching companies, soccer camps and freelance work detailing over 60 employers. Accommodation is free and you will also have a company car at your disposal. Don't miss out on a great experience!
Only £9.95 inc p&p (overseas add £2)
Please make cheques/PO's payable to: "Delta Publications"
Dept WS, 8 Douglas Gs, Durham DH1 3PT
Internet: www.museum-web.com/soccer

PEN PALS

1,000 PRETTY GIRLS from Holland, Great Britain, Scandinavia, Europe, Poland, Russia, N/S-America, the Phillipines, Asia and worldwide seek friendship, romance, marriage. Ask for our FREE colour photo brochure! Correspondance Club '70/WS, Box 8177, Rotterdam-3009, Holland.

PUBLICATIONS

SINCE 1992 THE AUTHORITATIVE VOICE OF THE AFRICAN GAME
AFRICAN SOCCER
2000 subscriptions (12 issues) £30 (UK) or £36 (worldwide). Payment and all enquiries to:
African Tele-Promotion
Canon Collins House
64 Essex Road
London N1 8LR
England
Fax: +44 20 7704 6300
or visit us on the Internet at:
www.sportscheduler.co.sz

VIDEOS

ATTENTION SOCCER LOVERS!
Classic International world soccer matches from 1966 to present day.
★ World Cups, Copa America, European Championship, Friendlies, Club matches etc.
★ All games 90 mins or more
★ All very good quality
★ Costs from £6
For latest free list contact Julie Davies
on +44 (0) 7091 421176
+44 (0) 7930 528446 or
or Fax +44 (0) 121 247 7047
Email: 0956549968@one2one.net
Dept. WS, 212 Elmay Road, Sheldon, Birmingham B26 2QY England.

WORLD AND EUROPEAN Soccer Videos. World Cup Finals '94, European Competitions, EURO 96 : £7 each. Write to: G. Burgon, 508 Thornton Road, Thornton, Bradford, West Yorkshire BD13 3JD. Or Tel: 01274 834923.

SOCCER VIDEOS 70'S-90'S World Cups, Euro Cups etc. Full games from £6. R. Hunter, 1 Bronte Close, Rugby, Warwickshire, CV21 3PD England. Tel:01788 560298.

SOCCER TOURS

Football Weekends in Madrid
Spanish Fiestas offer fans the opportunity to watch world class football whilst experiencing a fantastic weekend in one of Europe's most exciting cities.
www.spanish-fiestas.com
More Info:
Tel/Fax: (00) 34 91 844 3651 *(Spain)*
Tel: 01772 492472 *(UK)*

TWO DAY TOURNAMENT In Holland on 27/28th May 2000 for U18/17/16/15/14/13/12 boys. For Brochures: JSGO Cup, PO Box 23, 3248 ZG Melissant, Holland. Fax +31 187603875

PROGRAMMES

FREE FOOTBALL PROGRAMMES
To receive a £10 pack of programmes FREE plus our current catalogue send £2 for postage to:
Steve Earl Football Programmes (WS)
Broad Street, Bungay, Suffolk NR35 1AH
For catalogue only just send name and address or phone 01986 892621 or www.footballprogs.freeserve.co.uk

PROGRAMME PROMOTIONS
Send 50p in postage stamps for a copy of our monthly 60 page **Football Programme Catalogue,** listing thousands of programmes for sale from pre-war to this season's issues. Old programme collections always wanted.
Programme Promotions
47 The Beeches, Lampton Road, Hounslow, Middlesex, TW3 4EH
Tel: 0181 569 5131

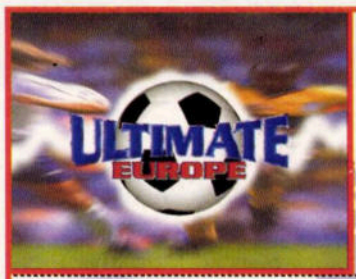
COMPREHENSIVE RANGE OF PROGRAMMES INCLUDING A GOOD SELECTION OF EUROPEAN
We are always interested in purchasing collectors especially older items.
Please send 50p for our latest catalogue to:
KATH and PETE,
Rundo Football Programmes, 4 Crawford Avenue, Gauldry, Newport-On-Tay, DD6 8SG. Tel: 01382 330356

LARGE SELECTION OF Football Programmes and autographs for sale. Write for free lists: Soccer Shop'en, P.O. Box 8, 3450 Allerod, Denmark.

SOUVENIRS

ENAMEL BADGES, Scottish, Irish, UK, worldwide selection for sale. Send for FREE illustrated catalogue. T. R. Smith, 48 Greyfriars Street, Glasgow, Scotland G32 6RF. Tel: 0141 7783409. Or E-mail:badgepins@aol.com

PLAY BY MAIL



NEW to Play By Mail Football Management comes William Elliott's ULTIMATE EUROPE. If you're new to PBM or are already a fan then this is the game to be in.

Scour the teams of Europe and the World to help build your squad into championship material, mould your players with tactics, training and formation to rival the great teams of the past and present and power your way towards the ultimate goal of the European Champions League.

For a free, no obligation Managers Report and game guide, phone 01761 415251 or return the coupon below to: Ultimate Europe, PO Box 2724, Radstock, Bath BA3 2YU

Name: _____ Tel No.(optional): _____
Address: _____
_____ Postcode: _____
I wish to take on the challenge of managing one of the following teams;
1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____
"Form is Temporary, Class is Permanent" WORLD SOCCER

Einnek Football-Play By Mail
With 18 years of success behind us, in the Football Management Play By Mail business, we must be doing something right! Phone, write, fax or email to receive FREE, no obligation information booklet (within 24 hours). You won't regret it! Phone Kennie on 01708 861729, fax 01708 402199, email einnek.football@cableinet.co.uk, 31 Nare Road, Aveley, Essex RM15 4RB.

We'll send you everything but the sheepskin coat...

the closest thing to football management

You've just taken over Manchester United. You've got money to spend on players and a new season has just started. You're over the moon and shaking with anticipation. Now you're a real manager, and it's all thanks to Pure Fantasy Football.

It couldn't be easier; you don't need a computer - only a pen and a stamp. Pure Fantasy Football is totally run through the post. Each 'turn' will give you the following updates: your detailed match reports, match analysis and results, Division tables, financial report, squad list, managerial rating, bids from other managers, players' views on the bids, top scorers, messages from other players, transfer lists, training report, physio report, friendly results and a page of statistics which include Best Managers, players and the richest clubs.

To join today, phone 08700 793 793 or fill in the coupon below. We will then return your start-up pack complete with first turn as soon as possible - **totally free**, so you can get started straight away. You'll be over the moon about it. All you need now is the sheepskin coat.

Purefantasyfootball
http://www.purefantasyfootball.com

tel: 08700 793 793 / fax: 01246 241 495

please complete the coupon below and send to: PO Box 186, Staveley, Chesterfield, Derbyshire S43 3UW

name _____
address _____
_____ postcode _____
telephone _____ age _____

have you got a friend that would like to receive a free start-up pack? if so, fill in their name and address on the right.

name _____
address _____
_____ postcode _____
telephone _____ age _____

my favourite UK and European teams are (7 or more): _____

if my chosen teams are not available, i would like a team from: England ☐ Scotland ☐ Europe ☐ country _____ any team ☐

WSFEB00

Founding Member of the United Kingdom Postal Games Association which is your guarantee of a fair game providing quality and value for money

Brian Glanville's LAST WORD

'There appears to be a fight for Beckham's soul, and even his footballing future, between Alex Ferguson and Mrs Beckham, alias Relatively Posh Spice'

The battle for Beckham

THE IDEA that David Beckham should be voted European Footballer of the Year seemed a very strange one to me. It was no surprise at all when that honour went, very properly, to Rivaldo.

It is hard to come to an assessment of the Manchester United player's talents. But there appears to be a battle for his soul, and even perhaps his footballing future, between manager Alex Ferguson and Mrs Beckham, alias Relatively Posh Spice.

Beckham, scarcely off the plane from Tokyo, where he had played without panache in the World Club Cup against Palmeiras, went to a showbiz party. This suggested Relatively Posh was winning.

After all, only a few weeks earlier Beckham had been heavily fined by Ferguson for taking himself off to an event in London without permission. This time, however, there was no sanction.

To give Beckham his due, he proceeded within days to play a crucial role in United's 3-0 victory over Valencia in the European Cup. Indeed, he was probably the most influential player on the field. That remarkable right foot struck the crossbar with one of his typical free-kicks; subsequently it would pick out the foot of Ole Gunnar Solskjaer and the head of Paul Scholes to make two of United's goals.

The right wing is where Ferguson and England want Beckham to play, though it's not his favourite position, and indeed he is hardly your classical winger. He has not a great deal of pace nor inordinate skill.

He is no Matthews, Finney or Garrincha, able to tease an opposing left-back on to the wrong foot, speed up the line and pull the ball back into the goalmouth from the byline – the most dangerous pass in the book. But he can score goals – even if at the time of the Valencia game he had got only three all season – from stupendous distances, and his crossing is immaculate.

But if Posh is calling the shots – off the field, of course – there is a strange paradox here. For Beckham beyond dispute is a talented footballer. Posh is a talented...what? She can't, by general agreement, sing to any great effect. She is no great dancer.

What she is, in fact, is a symptom and symbol of an age in which publicity overwhelms reality. J B Priestley wrote long ago that we live in an age of rubbish, and since then things haven't improved.

Trouble and strife...David Beckham with 'Relatively' Posh Spice

Baffling decision...Sven Goran Eriksson

Unpredictable as ever

MANAGERS continue to baffle me, even when they are so hugely experienced as Lazio's Sven Goran Eriksson. What in the name of logic came over him when his team played Chelsea in the European Cup?

The previous week I had been to the Lazio training ground at Formello to speak to him and others, then had gone u[illegible] for an [illegible] n Erikss[illegible] had be[illegible] is team a[illegible] Roma [illegible]

The [illegible] year-o[illegible] y deep l[illegible] somev[illegible] own. T[illegible] would [illegible]

In t[illegible] of the [illegible] great s[illegible] to crea[illegible] Portug[illegible] enjoye[illegible] scored[illegible] l the second. But when, on the follow[illegible] ing Tuesday, Chelsea went to the St[illegible] adio Olimpico, none of those three [illegible] started!

It [illegible] was as much as to say to Chels[illegible] ea: "Look, you had a bad time of it a[illegible] t Sunderland, but we're going to giv[illegible] e you a chance to dig in!" Whic[illegible] h Chelsea duly took. Ultimately, all th[illegible] ee players did go on, but by then it wa[illegible] s a very different Chelsea from the o[illegible] ne that had gone down with all hand[illegible] s at the Stadium of Light.

I [illegible] still believe both teams will qualify for t[illegible] he next stage of the tournament. But [illegible] Chelsea remain as unpredictable as ev[illegible] ver in their 94-year history.

Olympics? Who needs them!

THE idea that plans for the new Wembley stadium should be aborted and re-drawn because, as they stand, they would prevent Britain from putting on the Olympic Games seemed to me a fine reason for leaving things as they are.

For who, in their senses, wants the Olympic Games, which should surely have crumbled long ago thanks to what the Communists would call their own inner contradictions? Corruption infests the Olympics from its sleazy top to its drug-ridden bottom.

I covered them three times, in 1960, 1964 and 1968, the Avery Brundage era when things were squalid enough. But now one sees how right Livio Berutti, the Italian winner of the 200 metres in Rome, was to withdraw from the sport because, as a chemistry graduate, he did not want to be involved in "a contest between chemists".

At the top administrative levels, the Olympic movement is riddled with chicanery, as books such as Andrew Jennings' *New Lords of the Rings* have made all too horribly plain.

Football today is hardly in the healthiest condition as money calls the tune, but it has a long way to go before reaching the moral cesspit inhabited by the Olympics. Besides, what hope would London have of acquiring them, given the blatant amorality of its potential rivals?

Compton's war of convenience

Wartime sportsman...Arsenal's Denis Compton

I YIELD to none in my deep admiration for Denis Compton, both as footballer and cricketer.

Indeed, as a schoolboy, I was prepared to go miles to watch him bat for Middlesex or score goals with that superb left foot for Arsenal.

But it surprised me when Ian Wooldridge, in a *Daily Mail* column, recently equated Compton with Keith Miller, the Australian all-rounder, as one who had endured the horrors of war.

Miller, whom I remember watching at Lord's where his electric fast bowling and his cavalier batting for the Royal Australian Air Force against the RAF were coruscating, was a brave pilot.

Compton, so far as I know, though his own left-footed shot was dynamic, hardly heard a shot fired in anger.

Like so many pro footballers, he was drafted into the Army Physical Training Corps as an instructor. He went on playing with distinction for Arsenal and England (for whom, absurdly, he never won a full cap) until 1943, but was subsequently posted to India.

There he continued with his sporting career, even playing rugby with some success. But it was hardly a war to compare with Keith Miller's.

Barnes: wrong place, wrong time

JOHN BARNES has had a torrid time of it in his first managerial appointment, in charge of Celtic. Criticism in Glasgow has been violent, not least that of Bertie Auld, a salient figure at inside-left in Jock Stein's exciting team of the late 1960s.

But it is surely unfair to blame Barnes, a total tyro when it comes to management, rather than those – Kenny Dalglish among them – who so surprisingly appointed him.

Under fire, Barnes observed plaintively that he should be given time to learn. Time is indeed of the essence, something he needs in abundance given his absolute lack of experience. But it is surely time he should have spent with a far more modest and less celebrated club, rather than one with such huge expectations and such remarkable, ever-faithful support.

Barnes has been criticised for his unusual tactics, playing two men behind two others in midfield, and his handling of the situation with Craig Burley. This great crowd favourite was obliged to play in a position he disliked and was eventually sold to Derby – just at the time Celtic needed someone of his experience.

Barnes, however, can hardly be blamed for the loss with a severe injury of his outstanding striker, the Swede, Henrik Larsson.

As one who has known and liked Barnes for many years, who will long remember his superb goal in Rio in 1984 and his marvellous last quarter hour in the Azteca against Argentina in the 1986 World Cup, I wish him eventual success. But with his delightfully casual and charming approach to life, I confess I have never seen him as a manager.

I hope he proves me wrong; and has the time to do so.

Man in a muddle...John Barnes (third from right) at Celtic

From the archives...

February 1968

THE FRONT cover in this month featured Philippe Gondet, the France forward who set a French First Division record when scoring 36 League goals for Nantes in the 1965-66 season.

By coincidence, the man who went on to beat this total, Croat Josip Skoblar, also figured in the issue. Keir Radnedge referred to the fact that when Skoblar first burst on to the French scene, with Marseille in 1966-67, he soon acquired the nickname 'Monsieur goal a game'. In 1970-71, he lived up to the sobriquet, scoring 44 goals in 36 appearances for Marseille, a record that still stands today.

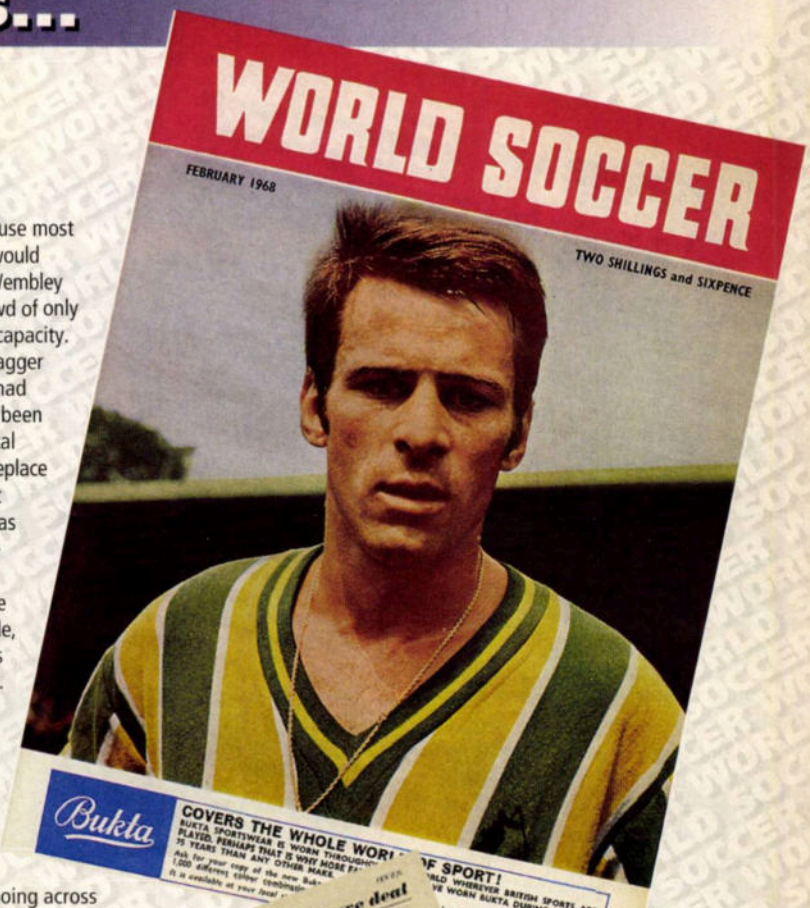
The centre spread was devoted to Bobby Charlton, under the title 'So much achieved and more to come'. This was certainly true, because within four months, Charlton's Manchester United had won the European Cup at Wembley. However, elsewhere in the February edition, Arthur Rotmil questioned why stadiums in Eastern Europe were never used to stage the Final. "Surely the reason is not lack of facilities," he said, noting that potential venues included Moscow's Lenin stadium (103,000 capacity) and the Leipzig stadium (110,000) in East Germany.

"Could there be any objections on financial grounds?" Rotmil continued. "Unlikely – because most of the grounds I mentioned would guarantee a sell-out, while Wembley for its 1963 Final drew a crowd of only 45,000" – less than half its capacity.

On another page, Tom Jagger highlighted a problem that had arisen since substitutes had been allowed to be used for tactical reasons rather than just to replace injured players – namely that the player being replaced was showing reluctance to come off. Generally, this was by moving as far away from the gesturing manager as possible, and even ignoring messages being passed by other players.

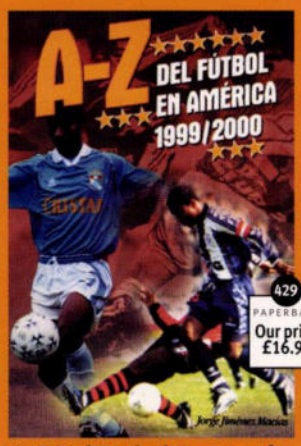
"We certainly don't have to encourage managers to develop any more so-called solutions," wrote Jagger, "otherwise clubs will be resorting to loudspeaker systems, and I can well imagine a strident voice echoing across a packed ground: 'Come in No 8, a substitute's coming on for you.'"

Jagger's preferred remedy? "Let's ask a match official to quietly help."



www.sportsbooksdirect.co.uk for all the latest football books. Postage and packing is *FREE* in the UK

FOOTBALL BOOKS Direct



429 PAPERBACK Our price £16.99

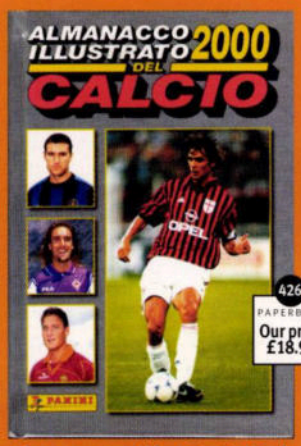
A–Z Del Futbol En America 1999/2000

Just published latest edition of this Spanish guide to football in South America: 280 pages, 4,222 players and 156 clubs

427 PAPERBACK Our price £23.95

Storia Della Serie A

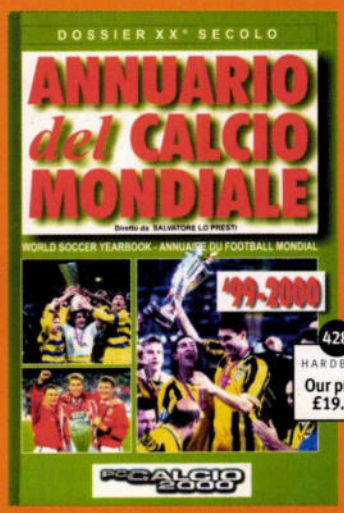
Rino Tommasi's newly published 700-page history of Serie A, packed with statistics and results from 1929 onwards



426 PAPERBACK Our price £18.99

Almanacco Illustrato Del Calcio 2000

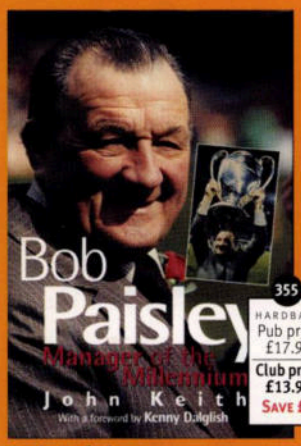
Just published Italian bestselling almanack to Serie A and B, with player career details and general stats and facts on Italian football



428 HARDBACK Our price £19.99

Annuario del Calcio Mondiale '99 – 2000

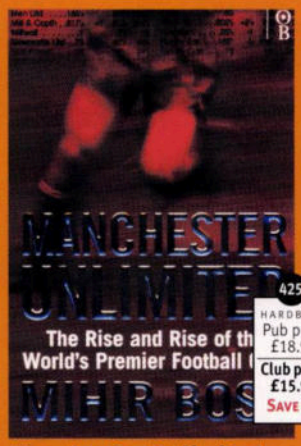
The new edition of the Italian yearbook is over 1,000 pages of stats, facts and information on football worldwide



355 HARDBACK Pub price £17.99 Club price £13.99 SAVE £4

Bob Paisley Manager of the Millennium

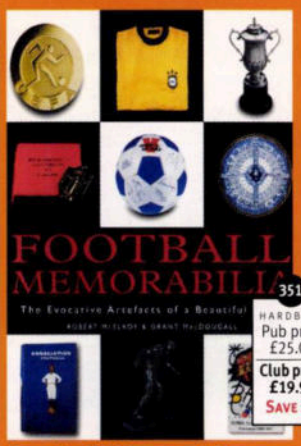
The authorised biography of the most successful English football manager of all time captures 50 years of Liverpool history



425 HARDBACK Pub price £18.99 Club price £15.99 SAVE £3

Manchester Unlimited

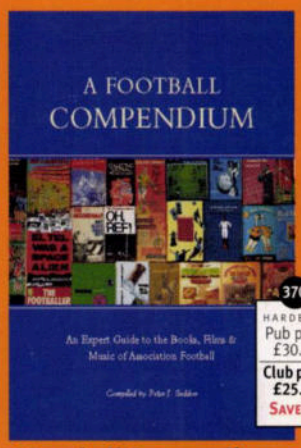
'The rise and rise of the world's premier football club' is an in-depth and controversial study of the incredible financial rise and success of Man Utd plc.



351 HARDBACK Pub price £25.00 Club price £19.99 SAVE £5

Football Memorabilia

Beautifully produced large book with over 300 photos covering all the main areas of football collectables



370 HARDBACK Pub price £30.00 Club price £25.00 SAVE £5

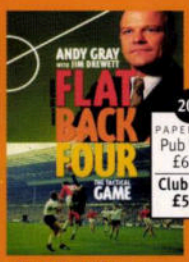
A Football Compendium

New and expanded edition of the comprehensive British Library guide to the books, films and music of football

352 PAPERBACK Pub price £12.99 Club price £9.99 SAVE £3

English Football A Fans' Handbook '99/00

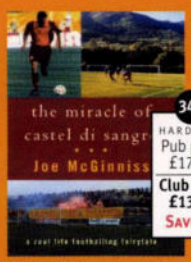
Covers every Premier and League club in the distinctive *Rough Guide* travel book style



201 PAPERBACK Pub price £6.99 Club price £5.99

Flat Back Four The Tactical Game

TV pundit Andy Gray's tactical bible and guide examines the inner workings of the game



344 HARDBACK Pub price £17.99 Club price £13.99 SAVE £4

The Miracle of Castel Di Sangro

Extraordinary story of an Italian village team and its amazing rise to the top

325 HARDBACK Pub price £16.99 Our price £11.99 SAVE £5

Barca: A People's Passion

Jimmy Burns has dug deep into the history of this great club to produce an epic story of obsessive national pride

361 PAPERBACK Pub price £9.99 Our price £7.99 SAVE £2

The Ingerland Factor Home Truths from Football

Notable contributors ponder patriotism, football and the legacy of Empire

381 HARDBACK Pub price £16.99 Our price £13.99 SAVE £3

The Boot Room Boys

The story of Liverpool's inner sanctum, as told by players, club officials and fans

HOW TO ORDER:

Post as below **Telephone** 020 7739 7173 **Fax** 020 7729 2305
Email fbc@sportsbooksdirect.co.uk **Web** www.sportsbooksdirect.co.uk

1 Fill in this form, copy it, or write out the details on a separate piece of paper and send to:
Sports Books Direct, FREEPOST LON 6708, LONDON, EC2B 2AN *(no stamp required in the UK)*

☐ I have previously ordered from Football Books Direct

☐ I have not previously ordered from Football Books Direct

Please fill in the code number of your choice(s):

☐☐☐ ☐☐☐ ☐☐☐ ☐☐☐ ☐☐☐

2 I enclose my cheque for £..... payable to Sports Books Direct
OR Please debit my Visa/Mastercard/Switch (Include Issue No. for Switch) number –

☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

Expiry date ☐☐ ☐☐ Issue No. (Switch) ☐☐ ☐☐

3 Name .....
Address .....
.....
..... Postcode.....

Please tick if you have access to the internet ☐

Email address (to confirm despatch of your order) .....

THE TEAM YOU SUPPORT ..... W Soccer FEB 00

CREDIT CARD HOTLINE 020 7739 7173 MON-FRI 8AM-7PM

POSTAGE AND PACKING IS **FREE** IN THE UK. Airmail Europe £2.95 pbk; £3.50 hbk. Airmail rest of world, £4.50 pbk, £7.00 hbk.
Special rates for extra large books: 426 – Air Europe £3.50; Air rest of world £7: 351, 370 – Air Europe £5; Air rest of world £10; 427, 428 – Air Europe £6; Air rest of world £10

CARRY THE WORLD ON YOUR
UR SHOULDERS

Boca Juniors
River Plate
Red Star Belgrade
Torino
Soviet Union
Greece
Hungary
England
Benfica
Italy
Brazil
Holland
Anderlecht
Flamengo
Santos
Fiorentina
Internazionale
Paris St. Germain
Ajax
Uruguay
Real Madrid
Real Betis
Feyenoord
Bayern Munich
Juventus
France
Dukla Prague
Argentina
Rapid Vienna
Milan
Barcelona
Moscow Dynamo
Panathinaikos

over 400 club and international shirts from arou
om around the globe. 100% cotton, 100% replication.

TOFFS.Co.
THE OLD FASHIONED FOOTBALL SHIRT CO.

日本のお客様へ
下記英国住所へは日本語にて
お問い合わせいただけます。
（レター、電話、ファックス
ホーンビー　きよこ　まで）

FOR FREE COLOUR BROCHURE OF OVER 400 DIFFERENT SHIRTS PLEASE WRITE TO:-
THE OLD FASHIONED FOOTBALL SHIRT COMPANY, PO BOX 71 GATESHEAD NE11 OUZ
OR PHONE 0044 (0)191 491 3400/3500 OR FAX 0044 (0)191 491 3305
e.mail: ENQUIRIES@T.O.F.F.S.octacon.co.uk URL: http://www.zebra.co.uk/toffs/

For North American enquiries call 1-514-369-2095
Toll Free 1-888 746 4725. Email: TOFFS@six.net Fax: 1-514-369-3900